



## Conlang Critic Episode Fourteen: Ido

74,046 views • Apr 8, 2017



2.1K



140



SHARE



SAVE



**jan Misali**

89.5K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

<http://discord.gg/2E5w87K>

<http://patreon.com/hbmmaster>

<http://toki-ito-li-pona.tumblr.com>

SHOW MORE

### Up next

AUTOPLAY



### Conlang Critic Episode Fifteen: Volapük / Volapük

jan Misali

58K views • 3 years ago

6:12



### Conlang Critic Episode Sixteen: Dovahzul

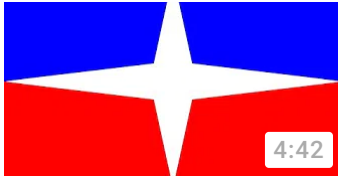
jan Misali

68K views • 3 years ago

SKIP NAVIGATION



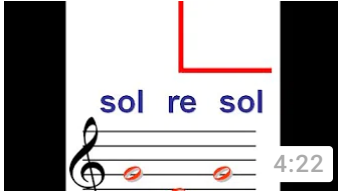
SIGN IN

**Conlang Critic Episode Seventeen: Interlingua**

jan Misali

58K views • 3 years ago

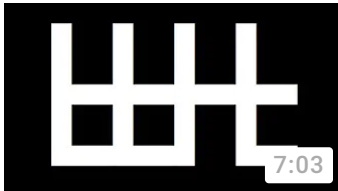
4:42

**Conlang Critic Episode Eighteen: Solresol**

jan Misali

55K views • 3 years ago

4:22

**Conlang Critic Episode Twenty: Zese**

jan Misali

87K views • 2 years ago

7:03

**sangman**

jan Misali

47K views • 4 months ago

1:17

**Conlang Critic Episode Twenty Two: Lingua Franca Nova**

jan Misali

56K views • 2 years ago

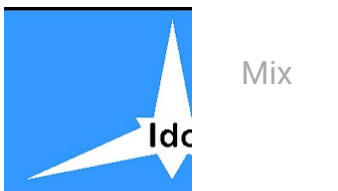
3:45

**Conlang Critic Episode Twenty Four: Folkspraak**

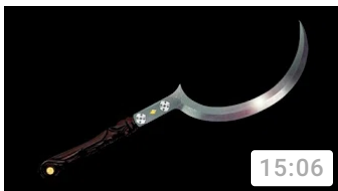
jan Misali

59K views • 1 year ago

9:31

**Mix - jan Misali**

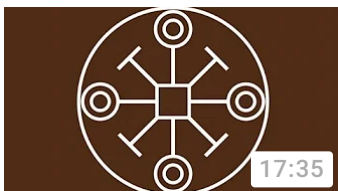
YouTube

**Conlang Critic: Dothraki**

jan Misali

77K views • 1 year ago

15:06

**Conlang Critic: Sambahsa**

jan Misali

68K views • 9 months ago

17:35

SKIP NAVIGATION

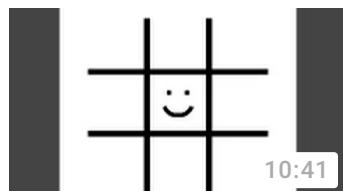
**Conlang Critic Episode One: Lojban**

SKIP NAVIGATION

**Conlang Critic Episode Two: aUI**

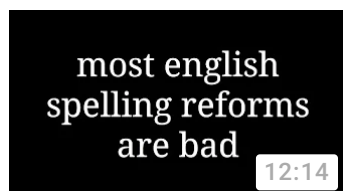
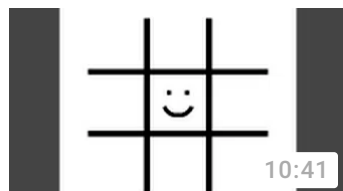
jan Misali

76K views • 3 years ago

**Conlang Critic Episode Three: Vötgil**

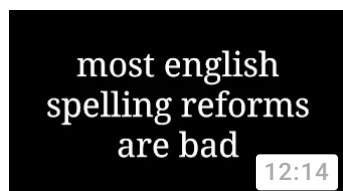
jan Misali

122K views • 3 years ago

**most english spelling reforms are bad**

jan Misali

177K views • 6 months ago

**Conlang Critic Episode Five: Ygyde**

jan Misali

75K views • 3 years ago

**Second Oldest Trick in Sleight of Hand**

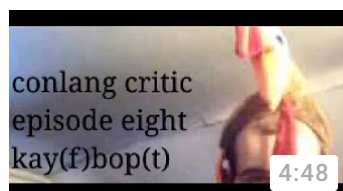
susiefilms

Recommended for you

**Conlang Critic Episode Six: Ithkuil**

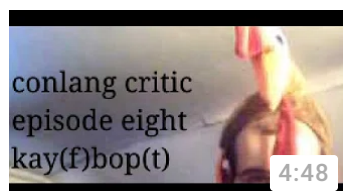
jan Misali

105K views • 3 years ago

**Conlang Critic Episode Eight: Kay(f)bop(t)**

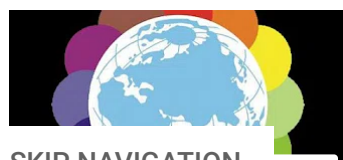
jan Misali

87K views • 3 years ago

**Conlang Critic Episode Twelve: Toki Pona**

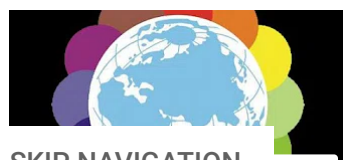
jan Misali

113K views • 3 years ago

**Conlang Critic: Lingwa de Planeta**

jan Misali

70K views • 2 months ago



SKIP NAVIGATION

SKIP NAVIGATION



SIGN IN



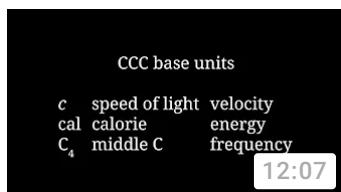
This video is

Recommended for you

**My First Conlang - How NOT to Make a Language**

Biblaridion

431K views • 1 year ago

**a joke about measurement**

jan Misali

87K views • 1 month ago

**Conlang Critic Episode Eleven: FluidLang**

jan Misali

66K views • 3 years ago

**there are 48 regular polyhedra**

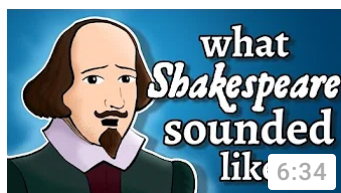
jan Misali

218K views • 3 weeks ago

**Conlang Critic Episode Twenty Three: Interslavic**

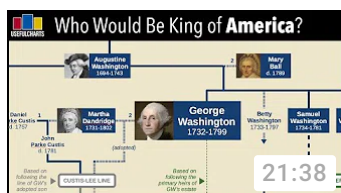
jan Misali

54K views • 2 years ago

**What Shakespeare's English Sounded Like - and how we know**

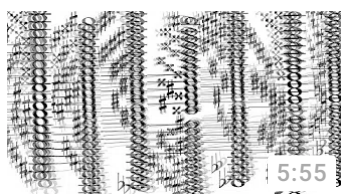
NativLang

3M views • 3 years ago

**Who Would Be King of America if George Washington had been made a monarch?**

UsefulCharts

2.1M views • 1 year ago

**The Largest Chord (sUpEr UlTrA hYpEr MeGa MeTa LyDiAn)**

Leon Waves

Recommended for you

**the original Mario Bros.**

jan Misali





## Spherical Geometry Is Stranger Than Hyperbolic - Hyperbolica Devlog #2

CodeParade ✓

Recommended for you

4:01



W

jan Misali

434K views • 1 year ago

18:28

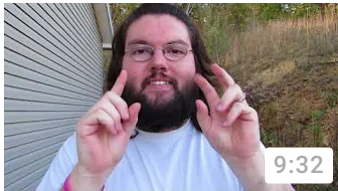


## The Man Who Time Travelled 0.2 Seconds

Half as Interesting

Recommended for you

5:54



## Why I Chose Esperanto And Why Learning A Constructed Language Isn't Bad

Seabolt TV

2.2K views • 2 years ago

9:32



## How far back in time could you go and still understand English?

Yestervid

4.8M views • 4 years ago

2:37

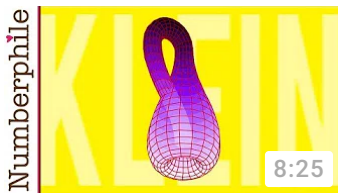


## Proto-World and the Origin of Language

Xidnaf

394K views • 3 years ago

7:09



## Klein Bottles - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you

8:25

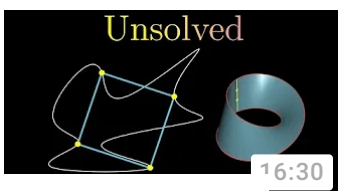


## Why do prime numbers make these spirals?

3Blue1Brown ✓

Recommended for you

22:30



## Who cares about topology? (Inscribed rectangle problem)

3Blue1Brown ✓

Recommended for you

16:30

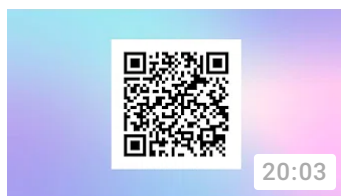
SKIP NAVIGATION



### Can you fit a whole game into a QR code?

MattKC

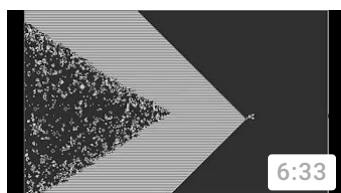
Recommended for you



### English - What if English Were 100% Germanic?

Langfocus ✓

1.5M views • 3 years ago



### epic conway's game of life

Oingo Boingo

Recommended for you



### Austr(al)ia

Tapakapa

460K views • 2 years ago

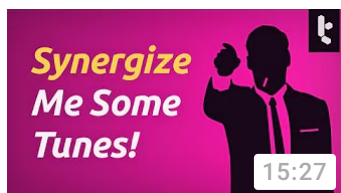
4:29



### AAVE - African American Vernacular English

Langfocus ✓

238K views • 1 month ago



### Corporate Music - How to Compose with no Soul

Tantacrul

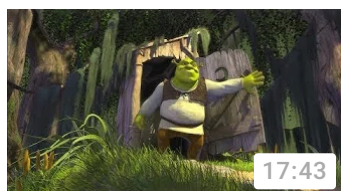
Recommended for you



### The Big Problem With Cloverleaf Interchanges - Cheddar Explains

Cheddar ✓

Recommended for you



### Why the Soundtrack to Shrek is Actually Genius

Sideways

Recommended for you

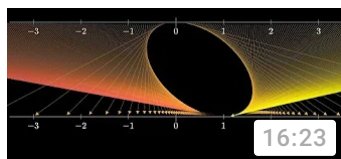


### Cookie Clicker Explained

Alt Shift X ✓

Recommended for you

SKIP NAVIGATION



### What they won't teach you in calculus

3Blue1Brown ✓

Recommended for you

16:23



### Ra Ra Rasputin - April Fools 2020 ;) - Extra History

Extra Credits ✓

406K views • 4 months ago

3:53



### The Billion Ant Mega Colony and the Biggest War on Earth

Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell ✓

Recommended for you

9:23



### The Bowling Alley Screen When You Get A Strike

DigiLuxe Recreational Video

Recommended for you

1:46

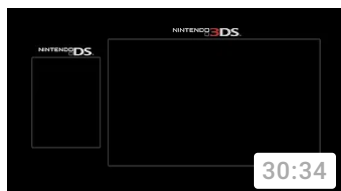


### Presentation de Interlingua

Marcus Scriptor

21K views • 8 years ago

5:06

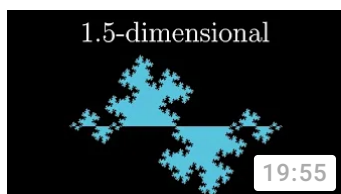


### Rhythm Heaven (DS) games in Rhythm Heaven Megamix DS/3DS comparison

jan Misali

31K views • 11 months ago

30:34

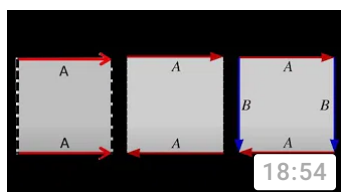


### Fractals are typically not self-similar

3Blue1Brown ✓

Recommended for you

19:55

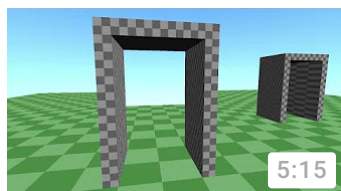


### These changed how I think about higher dimensions

Zach Star ✓

Recommended for you

18:54



### Non-Euclidean Worlds Engine

CodeParade ✓

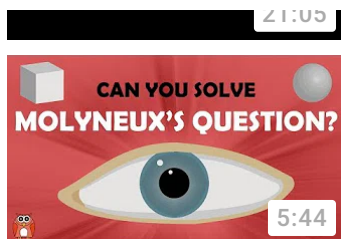
Recommended for you

5:15

SKIP NAVIGATION

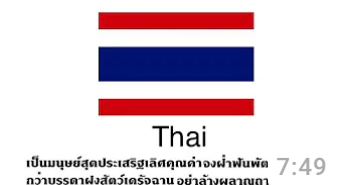
### The Zipf Mystery

SKIP NAVIGATION



### Molyneux's Question - Can It Be Solved?

Smart by Design  
Recommended for you



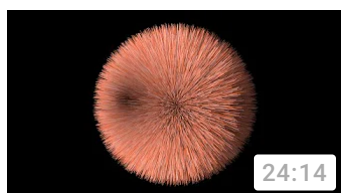
### World's Most Complicated Writing System (corrections in the description)

Xidnaf  
1.5M views • 6 years ago



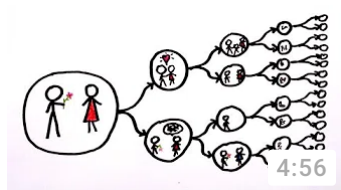
### The Best & Worst Fictional Flags & Emblems

The Templin Institute ✓  
Recommended for you



### The Banach-Tarski Paradox

Vsauce ✓  
Recommended for you



### THE UNIVERSE, EXPLAINED S2 • E1

### The True Science of Parallel Universes

minutephysics  
Recommended for you



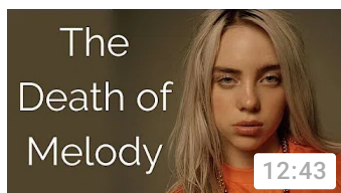
### Tom Scott vs Irving Finkel: The Royal Game of Ur | PLAYTHROUGH | International Tabletop Day 2017

The British Museum ✓  
Recommended for you



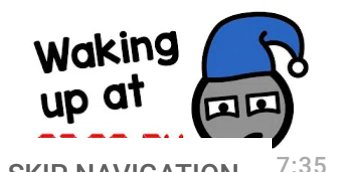
### What's special about 277777788888899? - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓  
Recommended for you



### The Death of Melody

Inside the Score  
Recommended for you



### Should We Ditch Time Zones?

Tapakapa  
Recommended for you

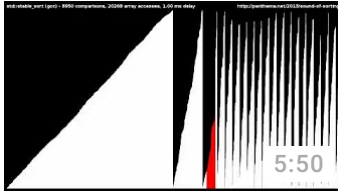
SKIP NAVIGATION 7:35



SKIP NAVIGATION



Recommended for you

**15 Sorting Algorithms in 6 Minutes**

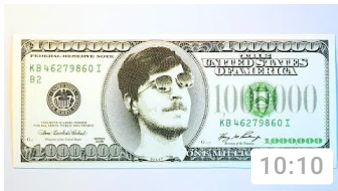
Timo Bingmann

Recommended for you

**I Paid Musicians \$1000 to play GIORNO'S THEME on BIZARRE Instruments...**

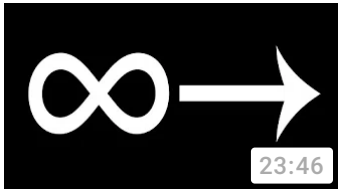
Rob Landes ✓

Recommended for you

**MrBeast's \$1,000,000 Dilemma**

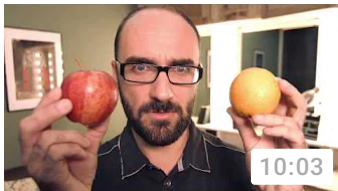
Vsauce2 ✓

Recommended for you

**How To Count Past Infinity**

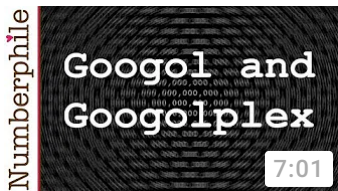
Vsauce ✓

Recommended for you

**Vsauce but out of context**

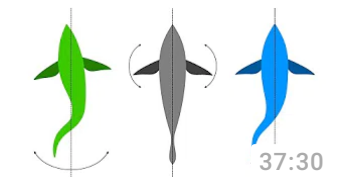
Silas Laspada

Recommended for you

**Googol and Googolplex - Numberphile**

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you

**Alien Biospheres: Part 7 - Return to the Water**

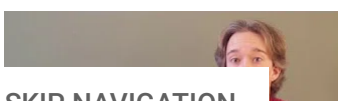
Biblaridion

136K views • 1 month ago

**How to make your writing funnier - Cheri Steinkellner**

TED-Ed ✓

Recommended for you

**The Link That Can Crash Chrome: http://a/%30%30**

Tom Scott ✓

Recommended for you

SKIP NAVIGATION

SKIP NAVIGATION



### 9 Reasons to Learn Arabic || Lindsay Does Languages Video

Lindsay Williams

274K views • 2 years ago



### 3 Languages I Failed At....

Jan &amp; Lucas - LanguageBoost

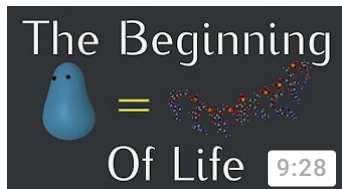
14K views • 2 years ago



### 58 and other Confusing Numbers - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you



### Mutations and the First Replicators

Primer

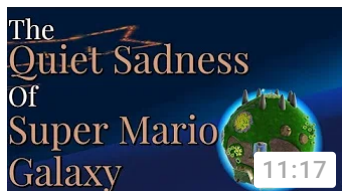
Recommended for you



### YouTube's Copyright System Isn't Broken. The World's Is.

Tom Scott ✓

Recommended for you



### The Quiet Sadness of Mario Galaxy

Jacob Geller

Recommended for you



### Music Software & Bad Interface Design: Avid's Sibelius

Tantacrul

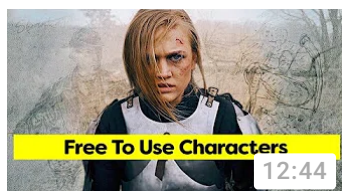
Recommended for you



### ONE SQUARE City! NO ESCAPE!! (Cities: Skylines ONE Tile Challenge)

Biffa Plays Indie Games ✓

Recommended for you



### 10 Famous Characters You Technically Own

AustinMcConnell ✓

Recommended for you

SKIP NAVIGATION

Why The YouTube Algorithm Will Always Be A Mystery

SKIP NAVIGATION



### The MayDay Mystery: An Ongoing 30+ Year Old Puzzle | blameitonjorge

blameitonjorge ✓

Recommended for you



### WOULD YOU SHARE IT OR STEAL IT? - The Evolution of Trust

MattShea ✓

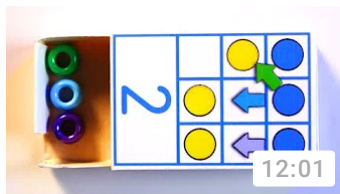
Recommended for you



### All the Numbers - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you



### The Game That Learns

Vsauce2 ✓

Recommended for you



### Who is the Chrome Dinosaur?

Ilyx ✓

Recommended for you



### The Longest Con In Video Game History

Karl Jobst ✓

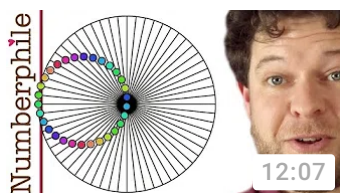
Recommended for you



### Learn Python - Full Course for Beginners [Tutorial]

freeCodeCamp.org ✓

Recommended for you



### Beautiful Trigonometry - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you



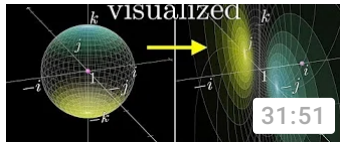
### Single Point of Failure: The (Fictional) Day Google Forgot To Check Passwords

Tom Scott ✓

Recommended for you

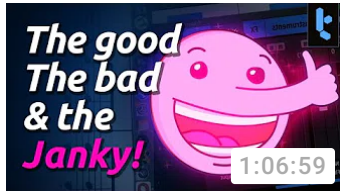
SKIP NAVIGATION

SKIP NAVIGATION



3Blue1Brown ✓

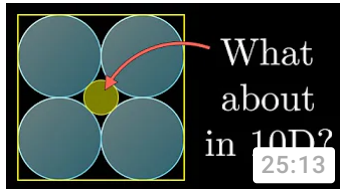
Recommended for you



Music Software &amp; Interface Design: Steinberg's Dorico

Tantacrul

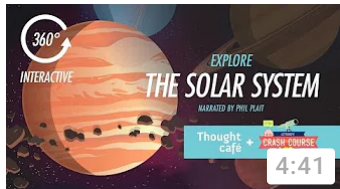
Recommended for you



Thinking outside the 10-dimensional box

3Blue1Brown ✓

Recommended for you



Explore The Solar System: 360 Degree Interactive Tour!

CrashCourse ✓

Recommended for you

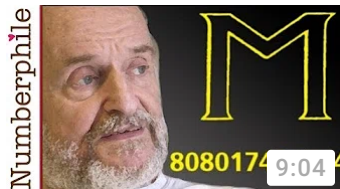
360°



Esperanto 100 important sentences - Popular Phrases - Quick Lesson

Education World

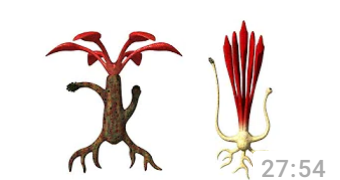
5.7K views • 1 year ago



Life, Death and the Monster (John Conway) - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you



Alien Biospheres: Part 6 - The Open Plains

Biblaridion

201K views • 3 months ago



odia gk video | odia general knowledge | Odisha gk video | Odisha general knowledge | digital odisha

Digital Odisha

Recommended for you



Alien Biospheres: Part 2 - Early life and Body Plans

Biblaridion

306K views • 1 year ago



The Brachistochrone

Vsauce ✓

SKIP NAVIGATION





## Bishop Pair from Hell | Artificial Beauty of AlphaZero

agadmator's Chess Channel ✓

Recommended for you

20:41

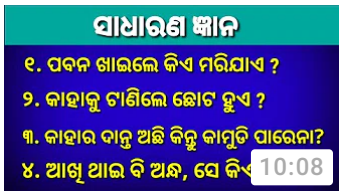


## The Catalan Language

Langfocus ✓

590K views • 1 year ago

16:04

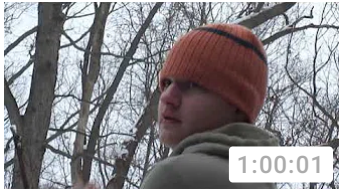


## Odia General Knowledge | General Knowledge in Odia | Odia Brain Treasure Question and Answer |

HelpFor You

Recommended for you

10:08



## here's tree (extended cut)

jan Misali

9.7K views • 4 months ago

1:00:01

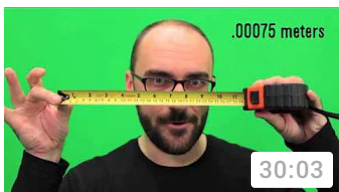


## Squares and Tilings - Numberphile

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you

16:35



## Vsauce but out of context 2

Silas Laspada

Recommended for you

30:03



## Analysing Mario to Master Super Mario Maker | Platformer Level Design

Game Maker's Toolkit ✓

Recommended for you

15:03

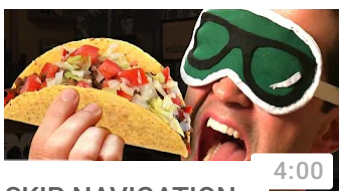


## RetroAhoy: The Secret of Monkey Island

Ahoy ✓

Recommended for you

1:13:54



GMM S10 • E91

## Blind Taco Taste Test

Good Mythical Morning ✓

Recommended for you

4:00

SKIP NAVIGATION



Recommended for you

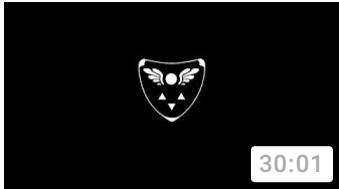
# 301 Views

9:48

## Why do YouTube views freeze at 301?

Numberphile ✓

Recommended for you



## Deltarune OST - Rude Buster ~Battle Theme~ (Extended)

Nael Leonhart

Recommended for you



## The Best Games from GMTK Game Jam 2020

Game Maker's Toolkit ✓

Recommended for you



## How Onward Is Already An Underrated Classic

24 Frames Of Nick ✓

Recommended for you



## Giving JoJo Siwa A FULL MAKEOVER!

James Charles ✓

Recommended for you

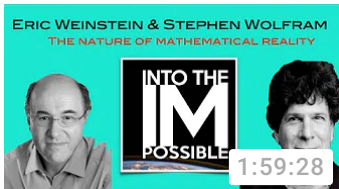
New



## My Best Chess Tournament of 2020

Eric Rosen

Recommended for you



## Stephen Wolfram & Eric Weinstein: The Nature of Mathematical Reality

Dr Brian Keating

Recommended for you



## Minecraft Speedrunner VS 2 Hunters

Dream ✓

Recommended for you

1 018 Comments

≡ SORT BY

SKIP NAVIGATION



SIGN IN



Pinned by jan Misali

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You have got to be about the most superficial commentator on con-languages since the idiotic B. Gilson.

Did I miss the one where you said which conlang you're fluent in and read at least three times a week and can read new books in every week or even one year or listen to radio shows in every week? New ...

373

[Hide 502 replies](#)


jan Misali 3 years ago

New radio shows?

326

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

Yeah, I'm surprised you don't know that there are radio shows put out in Esperanto every week. I thought you were supposed to be an expert.

And, which of the conlangs are you fluent in?

55



jan Misali 3 years ago

I was born in 1998 so I don't know what a radio is sorry

569

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I suppose you think that's cute. What it makes you is a fraud.

91



jan Misali 3 years ago

yeah but I'm a cute fraud though right?

575

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I assume that anyone who is reading this should assume since you have not mentioned which one you actually can speak that the answer is you don't speak any of them .

Let me guess, you can speak English and maybe a little, tiny bit of a second language but you ...

41



jan Misali 3 years ago

ona ike! mi ken toki kepeken toki pona. taso, ona li toki lili. jan ale li ken kama sona toki



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

toki pono or whatever it is? Give me a break. Show me the bibliography. Show me the speaking language community, show me the technical literature written or translated into it, show me the literature from many countries translated into it. I wonder, since its inspiration is supposed to be Taoism if they've translated any of the literature of Taoism into it.

52

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

toki pona is a game that is a little above pig-Latin and way below Ido. About its only virtue is that it lacks the nationalistic hegemony of Basic English.

I'd love to see someone try to translate a 4th grade level chapter book into it. Or try to. Why ...

51

**Mike S.** 3 years ago

Ouch.

56

**Flaming Obsidian** 3 years ago

I can translate the entirety of Moby Dick, if you want to challenge me. Also, Toki Pona has a whole community, unlike slowly dying Ido.

239

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I'm not an idist, I'm an Esperantist, a language which has the largest "conglang" community in history. I bet you couldn't translate Moby Dick into toki pona and have anyone who hadn't read the original tell you what was going on in most of it. I'll bet your translation would be controversial. The language is radically vague except when talking about the simplest things. ...

43

**Mike S.** 3 years ago

This snippet is the entirety of the lackluster "Literature" section of Wikipedia's article on TP: "Lang has published proverbs, some poetry, and a basic phrase book in Toki Pona." Actually, there is a little bit more than that, but not much more. Perhaps the most significant work I can find is a translation of The Little Prince ([https://failbluedot.com/toki\\_pona/jan\\_lawa\\_lili/](https://failbluedot.com/toki_pona/jan_lawa_lili/)). The translation however is not very faithful, but rather is heavily abridged. When you translate it back to English (to the extent that is even possible) and compare it to the original, it sounds like what you'd say if you were trying to explain the story to a 2- or 3-year-old child. All the little details melt away like snowflakes falling into a campfire. There is no alternative; TP lacks the necessary lexicon and syntax to faithfully convey the full story. It is essentially glorified baby talk, and I doubt the original author would have been very pleased with this translation.

Despite all that, Flaming Obsidian, I do challenge you to translate the entirety of Moby Dick into TP. I suspect it would be a good learning experience.



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I just looked at an article, I notice that it says the inventor of t.p. translated the Tao te Ching INTO ESPERANTO.

I like how she purposely limited the number of words for numbers so it wouldn't be easy to talk about "big numbers" in the language. Numbers like 5 and sixteen, apparently.

I've got nothing against people playing in the language but to pretend it's a real language with even an unsophisticated range of usefulness is simply not true. Seems to me if they're going to be true to the inventors intention they can't really make it so. Zamenhof invented Esperanto to do that and he built in means of extending a fairly small vocabulary into a far larger number of usable words. Claude Piron was able to write some fairly technical and sophisticated books as well as crime novels and even beginner books like Gerda Malaperis that, by the end of the book, feel quite normal.

I really meant it when I said that though I studied French and German for years and use them practically every day, Esperanto is the only secondary language that I can use with practically the same fluency and feel of fluency that I do my native English. And I don't speak it all that often. compared to French.

Show less

👍 23 🗨️



**Flaming Obsidian** 3 years ago

Simplicity does not mean stupidity. All of your points rely on the claim that simple things are for idiots. I know it may be difficult to translate things into Toki Pona, but that does not mean it is a dumb language. You could easily translate many things into V0tgil, but that does not make it a good language.

👍 231 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

A language of 120 words, designed by its inventor to not be able to express complex ideas or numbers bigger than - what was it in the official vocabulary, two? - cannot express complex thoughts in a clear manner. It would be like trying to translate a modern novel into an ancient language in which modern ideas and things had no vocabulary. Only without having the freedom to invent neologisms as they did in Finland when they tried to do their Latin news reports. They were popular but they had to invent a lot of words to pull it off.

I will bet if you came up with a toki pona translation of Gerda Malaperis by Claude Piron most of the users of t.p. wouldn't understand what the story was about or what was happening during most of it. Go on, prove me wrong. There must be an English translation of it somewhere.

Show less

👍 21 🗨️



**Flaming Obsidian** 3 years ago

~ " nge accepted.



SIGN IN

Here's chapter 1 of Gerda Malaperis. It only took me a few minutes to write it.

<https://pastebin.com/NzMGM4C2>

👍 107 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Let's see you translate the last chapter of it. The first chapter is the simplest one. How about the chapter where Linda is trying to figure out what she's going to do when the blond guy leaves.

I'd like some other toki pona user who didn't know the story prove they understood it on a cold ...

👍 8 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

I retranslated your translation and it's hardly a clear translation of what the text says.

Am I right, you describe the blond young man as being pale yellow? Really?

👍 8 🗨️



**Flaming Obsidian** 3 years ago (edited)

No, pi linja jelo translates as "having yellow hair." Linja is a more informal term for hair, the more formal term being linja lawa. jelo walo is pale yellow. This must be a form of pigeon chess, to translate a text for somebody who does not know the language I am translating into.

👍 166 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I looked at t.p. and learned to read it once, though there wasn't much of anything interesting to read in it. It didn't take long. I am not impressed with the translation and I do doubt that if someone was unfamiliar with the story if they would really understand what is supposed to be going on in it. It would be an interesting test to make. I wonder what the inventor of t.p. would have to say about it.

As the story is in Esperanto, using pretty much exclusively a very small vocabulary, as I recall all of them standard, "official" roots and grammatical forms, it's obvious that E-o can do that.

Show less

👍 7 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

"Haha you don't know any conlangs"

"That one doesn't count"

👍 459 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

A conlang of 120 words, it has three numbers "one, two and many" because its author didn't like the language to have the ability to express "big numbers" and doesn't like the introduction





Basic English with its 850 words and magnifies them enormously. If you had read Gerda Malaperis, with its own radically reduced vocabulary, and read the "translation" of the first

chapter into toki pona linked to above, you would see that it isn't a language in any way. Some people call it a "pidgen" but it's not even that.

Anyone who thinks they can judge a real constructed language on the basis of toki pona is probably too ignorant to have an important idea on the topic.

So, you speak toki pona? I have a feeling the place it got the best workout was at the Esperanto Youth group's workshop on it at the International Congress a while back. I don't know if they taped it but it would be interesting to see how those conlangers who know an actual conlang did with it.

Show less

👍 13 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

lol

👍 168 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

So you don't speak toki pona. Why am I surprised?

👍 9 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I'm sorry but I'm just having trouble comprehending the sheer volume of haughty obstinance it must take to engage with a comment that only says "lol".

👍 311 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You should have put your period between "comprehending" and "the" and left everything after the period out.

👍 7 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Is this your job, to do this?

👍 233 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You've finally said something amusing. The idea that someone gets paid to promote a conlang or criticize one is mildly amusing. As is the idea that refuting you is work.

👍 7 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago (edited)



someone for not being a die-hard esperantist.

👍 227 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I think fast and type fast. I write several thousand words most day. This is child's play.

I haven't made fun of anyone for not being a "die-hard Esperantist" I haven't made fun of anyone for not being an Esperantist. The only non-Esperantists I have anything against are those who say untrue things about the language as a language and a real phenomenon in the world.

My criticism of toki pona was with the idea that it was a language instead of a game. Try writing the English language using 120 words even if you use all of their grammatical inflections within that. The results won't be communication on any but the vaguest of levels. I have no problem with people playing with toki pona if they want to but to claim you could translate Moby Dick or even Gerda Malaperis into it is absurd. By the way, I respect toki pona enough to not capitalize it. I might think Ms. Lang is kind of eccentric but I don't have anything against her or her project, such as it is instead of such as it isn't.

Show less

👍 9 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Well I'm glad to see you've found something productive to do with that big head of yours.

👍 161 🗨️



**jan Misali** 3 years ago

"I respect toki pona enough to not capitalize it"

[https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51UGifDjML.\\_SX331\\_BO1,204,203,200\\_.jpg](https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51UGifDjML._SX331_BO1,204,203,200_.jpg)

👍 187 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

The instructions I found online said that it never used upper case letters, did that change or was the thing I learned to "read" it from wrong?

👍 7 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Hey, if you're going to get snarky I'm going to return it with attitude. I can also kick it around if necessary.

👍 4 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Well, let's see it then. Go on and have a go at me.

👍 105 🗨️





4



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

No, actually.

94



**Luis Manuel Ontiveros** 3 years ago

+Conlang Critic thank you for pinning this absurd thread. You gained one more subscriber ;)

259



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago (edited)

sethraptor thank you for giving me something entertaining to read (that is to say, i'm on your side here, i wish english had affect suffixes)

90



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Yeah seriously that would be so useful on internet.

88



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I'd have to see what it was, the active, using community it attracted, the ways it is USEFUL and the literature it produced. One person doesn't determine if one conlang is better than another, a

community that adopts and uses it does. That is if it isn't something ridiculously impractical such as Loglan or Toki Pona

The history of Esperanto "improvements" is a long one but the only ones that have been successful are minor points which have changed in the century + of its use by a community of users. The basic structure of the language has, already, passed the test of time in users whose native languages have been from many different families of languages around the world. Several of the best writers in Esperanto grew up speaking such non-Indo-European languages as Japanese and Hungarian.

Show less

8



**Mike S.** 3 years ago

Loglan is often presented as a "logical language", but actually it was a homebrew project putatively designed to test the **Sapir-Whorf hypothesis**. That needs to be fully appreciated if you wish to understand why the language was designed the way it was. Starting in 1955, the creator seems to have been working mostly on his own, with minimal input from others, and never incorporated the various advances in transformational grammar, formal semantics, case role theory, etc that appeared in the 1970s and 1980s. Along the way, innumerable kludges, patches and just plain bizarre design decisions found their way into the language over the time of several decades. Suffice to say that Loglan and Lojban should not be presented as IALs.

However, just as with Toki Pona, some enthusiasts did not get the memo that the language was



SIGN IN

arguably helping to avoid misunderstandings. Whether a properly reformed loglanoid would ever attract a significant following and a movement is, of course, an entirely different question.

Show less

68



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Last time I looked one of the inventors of Loglan bragged that two people had actually sustained conversation in it for 45 minutes. I believe by that time in the history of Esperanto there had actually been international congresses conducted entirely in the language with participants from many different countries. Let me know when the world-wide community of those who could ...

6



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I'm no expert, but it seems to me like if you judge every "conglang" against the virtues of Esperanto, then of course Esperanto is going to come out on top since it literally is Esperanto. Of course a minimalistic spiritually minded experimental language isn't going to be tremendously successful as an international auxiliary, especially compared to THE "definitive" auxlang that is ...

196



**Mike S.** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy, perhaps you aren't aware of some the current usage in Lojban (Loglan's successor language). Currently there is a good amount of conversation occurring in Lojban, both in IRC and voice chat. There are translations and there is also some original musical output on Youtube and Vimeo if you're curious. I am not trying to compare Lojban to Esperanto. I'm ...

66



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I have read about Lojban, it is essentially the same language with some differences to get past the copyright on it, as I recall.

If it isn't as simple to learn as Esperanto has proven to be over decades, I doubt it has much of ...

8



**Mike S.** 3 years ago

Natural languages get pretty complicated and are still used, so I don't think the degree of simplicity of Esperanto is a necessity for learning. Simplicity is not the end-all that trumps all other considerations, but is one goal that has to be balanced with other goals, such as versatility and the possibility of expressing precise, nuanced thoughts. Esperanto and Lojban don't have ...

76



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

A second language isn't learned under the same conditions under which a mother tongue is, learned from birth as the first means of communication, during all of the waking hours a child experiences. A conlang would be learned in a way more like a second language learned in



I'm skeptical about the linguistic theory that Loglan was formed to demonstrate, I've got no problem with people playing with it but it's not going to be widely used because it is too different from most or any other language.

Show less



**Mike S.** 3 years ago

Anthony, any second language, if it's going to be learned at all, is going to be learned only by the minority of people who are motivated to learn it. Esperanto is no exception. No matter how simple a language is (assuming it's fully functional and not a toy like Toki Pona), learning still requires significant practice and memorization. It takes commitment.

In the case of Lojban, Lojban is learned by the sort of people who want to learn Lojban and absolutely no one else. I have been studying the language for a while, though I am not fluent. I share your skepticism of Sapir-Whorf, assuming you are referring to that, but I do think that Lojban is worthwhile for the purpose of bringing preconceptions to consciousness and encouraging clear and precise thinking. As I said earlier, the language could stand a serious reformation -- I agree with you that it should be made simpler in order to learn and use. I agree it's more complex than it needs to be, but that's the way it is for now.

Show less



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

mostly he knows how to be evasive and a pedant.



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I see anthony as the kind of guy who sees himself as some kind of big intellectual, but the only way he has to express his expert thesaurus reading skills is on youtube, where he picks fights by way of hyperbole.

Mike is all about the facts, and argues with information. He doesn't worry so much about how the debate will turn out in the end because he's just in it for the pursuit of truth.

I think what this comment thread really means is that argument for the sake of argument is

futile, and by injecting the thread with personal emotional investment, Anthony has set himself up from the start to have accomplished nothing by the end of this treacherous journey.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Oh, for crying out loud. I've been reading and participating in conlang discussions for decades. I know what I'm talking about, if that's pedantic, I'm not ashamed of it. I do, actually, USE one and have looked at several of them in depth. Mordu min.



Anthony McCarthy decades? Christ you must be boring

106



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

As I say to my students, boredom is a sign of stupidity.

5



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy a) you dont say that, you just wanted to flaunt the fact youre a teacher as though thatd equate to some intellectual authority

b) so youre never bored? when youre grading your students' tests you sit at your desk fucking ecstatic, having the time of your life? if not then ur an idiot according to urself

c) if i a) had students and b) told them that every single person named anthony is a 45 year old mine who was recently divorced with one rebellious teenager daughter who wears shorts and has white socks with one red and one blue stripe with a beer belly who sits at his desk looking down at his monitor with his glasses low down on his nose, it wouldnt make it true

Show less

115



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Well, you are just about entirely wrong in all your speculations.

If you think conlangs are boooorrring and you come here to talk about them you can't be too bright. It's such a novel concept to so many of you guys, knowing what you're talking about.

5



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I used to think someone who is decades old would be above fighting with <2 decade olds on youtube comments but I guess you can never know anything these days.

117



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Oh, is that what you think. Or is that what you just said. I can assure you, I'm quite able to kick it around with you young'uns. Especially if you don't bother to know what you're talking about, which is what surprised me.

3



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Well you see Anthony I actually can't know what I'm talking about, because it all depends on the country, region, and social context. Because of this fact, knowledge is unknowable to any single human.

1



SIGN IN

here if I didnt like conlangs?

👍 79 💬



**Luis Manuel Ontiveros** 3 years ago

Stop feeding the troll... (unless this is all becoming ironic, which is hard to tell :v)

👍 82 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

As the other guys don't seem to know anything about the topic, it's ironic that you'd call someone who does a troll.

I guess it's always a rule of comment tread commenting, that ignorance rules because those ar...

👍 5 💬



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

How is that for irony, Anthony? Care to elaborate?

👍 94 💬



**Luis Manuel Ontiveros** 3 years ago

You know, I think I'm actually sort of starting to like your idiotic comments again :) keep 'em coming!

👍 63 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Because a "troll" was originally a person who didn't address the issues at hand. Now it apparently means someone who knows enough to be able to do that as opposed to people who don't and so can't.

👍 2 💬



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Well I'm glad there's at least one person here with the knowledge to maintain some level of academic excellence for this comment thread at youtube dot com

👍 75 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

"SAD!""SAD!""SAD!" Did you learn English from reading Donald Trump tweets?

Toki pona doesn't even have an official word for a number other than one, two and "many", it was designed to only be able to express the most minimal of information and, as the "translation" of even the first, most vocabulary limited chapter of Gerda Malaperis shows, it can't even really do that. It doesn't have user community, it has a gamer community. Lojban has a tiny number of people able to use it and it's so difficult and artificial that it is destined to never have more than a user community. Neither are a viable conlang.



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Well, you would seem to have other habits in common with Donald Trump, not being able to understand when what you want to be true has been refuted, for one. So, where is the rest of

the Gerda Malaperis translation into Toki pona? You don't even have to go to the last chapter which uses the full c. 500 root vocabulary of the book, that one where Linda is trying to decide what to do if the blonde guy gets up and leaves will make the point that, no, very little can be translated into Toki pona and have another TP user understand it. I think it's something like the ninth section of the book, though I'd have to look. Obviously, you can say it in Esperanto since the book was written as a beginner's reader in that language, one which has been successfully used and understood by many thousands of Esperanto users and speakers.

Show less



4

**Conlang Dude** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy if you want I'll translate that section if you find it. I've never read Gerda Malaperis, but then why would I? The only reason it's at all noteworthy is because it was written in a conlang, not a particularly good one at that. Anyway, give me a link to a section and I'll translate it. You can find some Toki Pona user to read it and let's see how close they are. Until ...



62

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

The trick is translating it in a way so that a person who doesn't know the story, or the section translated, would understand what was going on in it. I was familiar with the story and I am familiar with Toki pona and I would never have been able to figure out what was happening in the story. Toki pona, with its radically tiny vocabulary cannot do what is done by Claude Piron in that book, give people an easy to learn language which will provide them with a vocabulary and grammar able to do what can be done in any natural language with the same level of precision and specificity. If you want an easier challenge you could try to translate the texts and exercises of the Zagreb Method textbook - available all over the place, free, online, with an even more reduced vocabulary. I will bet you won't get far into it before the resources of Toki pona are proven to be unable to produce the same equivalent use of language that Esperanto does and has since the end of the 19th century. I counted the vocabulary for the first lesson at about 40 words, or a third of the entire corpus of Toki pona, By the time you get to lesson 4, you already surpass the corpus of T.P. words for numbers and I'm sure in many other categories of vocabulary.

I am sure you might give some vague sense of what is going on in the original, though not much that is very specific. And according to the inventor of the language, that was her intention. To only be able to talk about very simple things, not a full range of human experience. It does no one any good to pretend you could possibly do that with 120 words. Plus or minus "unofficial" neologisms which, as it is the nature of neo-logisms, will start muddying the water as fast as you invent them to clear things up. Anyone who has ever read novels in a second language will know that experience, especially when those words are ones you can't find in any but the most



SIGN IN

language, you're more likely drive your reform into deadness. I can read too - it's really a dialect of Esperanto, more or less - but if I'm going to use a conlang I want one where people will understand what I'm saying instead of being confused by my "improvements" or "reforms" or neologisms. I do agree with the late Claude Piron on the desirability of clarity over novelty. I am certain you will never be able to translate his fine study *La Bona Lingvo* into TP.

As I said, I have no problem with people wanting to play with Toki pona or Lojban or Ido but except for the ever fading project of Ido, there is no chance of them becoming a useful conlang for general communication.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

The word, itself, isn't old, it came up on Usenet in 1991 and I would call your attention, such as it is, to the first line from Merriam Websters:

Definition of conlang

: an invented language intended for human communication that has planned and cohesive phonological, grammatical, and syntactical systems

"Intended for human communication" contains more than can be expressed in any 120 +- word game. If 120 words, why not 12? Why not 2? Yes No. You could communicate something with just Yes and No but nothing clearly about something and no more information than affirmation or negation. It's almost certain that more times than not one or both parties won't know what is being talked about or what is being affirmed or negated.

Your statement about the example of Gerda Malaperis is a transparently dishonest dodge. I proposed the test of Toki pona because it is a novella written very successfully, communicating quite clearly in a vocabulary of about 500 word roots, many of which are grammatical affixes. I would hazard the guess that any natural language which is used to communicate about life in the late 20th and early 21st century could come up with a translation of it which carries the full meaning of the story, probably most of it in fairly direct, literal translation due to the flexibility of sentence structure in Esperanto. I'm sure there could be a totally successful translation into many conlangs, but not Toki pona because it lacks sufficient vocabulary and clarity BY THE DESIGN OF THE WOMAN WHO INVENTED IT. I'm sure there is probably a possibility of doing a translation into Lojban, though perhaps not as the language was constructed, supposedly to make lies impossible to tell in it and lies play an important part in the story.

You don't know what you're talking about.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

No, let's not leave it at that because any conlang that hopes or deserves to become an actual, used language exists to facilitate human communication, not to test a theory or a flaky idea that one has. There is a very good word for "language" projects that aren't for general



I very seldom talk about conlangs or language in general while using Esperanto, I talk about all kinds of other things unrelated to language and language problems. And I do it with people who can understand what I'm saying with the same level of precision that others can when I'm speaking my native language.

I do, by the way, think it would be a very good test of the theory behind Loglan-Lojban to see if a story in which lies play an intrinsic part could be translated into it. If those lies could be

expressed in the language, they're obviously not a test of the theory. If they can't, then could you lie to the Nazis about where their intended victims were hiding in it? I wonder if anyone has ever tested the theory in that way.

Show less



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Listen guy, academic linguistics doesn't even all agree on what a language is for normal old natural languages, so it's awful big-headed of you to think that you can make the distinction between what is and isn't a "real" "conlang". This especially when your distinction is based on whether the "project" in question imitates natural language,



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

I would bet you that you could get a hundred academic linguists in a room and ask them if a language that limits itself to 120 words, has no word for numbers other than the ones TP is limited to, other radical limitations in essential words denoting specific things, actions and conditions of being, etc. and not one of them would say it was a real language, some might note what I have, that such a thing is a game.

Any language that deserves that designation will enable those who use it to conduct all of their day-to-day communication within a reasonable range of specificity. Any which don't aren't languages. Those dead languages which left no or minimal remnants vocabulary which are available to us today could not be considered a language that still exists, though they once did. In the same way any constructed "language" which limits itself to a vocabulary of a similar number of words is, essentially, in the same category by design.

So, guy, why don't you go ask a bunch of "academic linguists" about that instead of just assuming they'd agree with you. I'm not that impressed with academic linguistics, George Lakoff, for example, I'd like to hear their reasoning if they agreed with you. It might be fun.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Good.







56



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You said "academic linguistics doesn't even all agree on what a language is" which is a different thing than the study of language in general. I doubt that until the 20th century that "academic linguistics" had much of anything to do with constructed languages and, as in the case of Glosa, Interglosa, Novial, especially Interlingua and a host of others, the association was hardly a great success. Why don't you read the late Don Harlow's history of conlang projects before you go on. Look up "Don Harlow How To Build A Language Esperanto Book".

I think the reasons Esperanto worked were a. The fact that Zamenhof spoke several languages and read more, b. he had the failed example of Volapuk to learn from, c. he took a practical instead of a theoretical-academic approach to the problem. His overall goal was communication among people who didn't speak a common, natural language, not to illustrate some academic theory or other.

Show less

5



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy i never realized pirahã isn't a real language

69



**Conlang Dude** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy Similarly, Toki Pona achieves its goal. Its goal was to create communication with a radically small vocabulary. It does this, it does it effectively, and most importantly it does it functionally. By design it isn't meant to go into specifics but specifics in a sentence don't limit communication by very much. Take the sentence "I glanced at the words littering the page, before flicking my eyes over to him." It's a relatively detailed sentence. Now saying "I looked at the words on the paper, then I looked at him," doesn't communicate anything different. Now you could translate "mi lukin e nimi pi lipu. mi lukin e ona" as either because they both mean the same. Being able to differentiate between "disgusting paste (ko jaki)" and "mud" isn't necessary because 99 times out of 100 it makes sense contextually. Your argument is that TP has no detail but details come from context.

Show less

66



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I'd like to see someone write a news report into the Trump-Russia scandal in T.P. Or the firing of James Comey. How would you say, "Donald Trump fired James Comey to try to stop the Russian election hacking investigation".

You limit your vocabulary to 120 words, you'll find yourself severely limited in what you can talk about and what you can say about that. You want to play with that, I'm not against that. Pretending it can function as a full language is a fraud.



SIGN IN

language.

Show less

3

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy "Akesi utala jan pali e James Kome tawa pali tawa pakala ike e Lusia pali kulupu tawa lon li e ike tawa oko li sona"

46

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

The test would be to give that to someone telling them nothing about what it said and seeing if they could figure out what you were saying. Someone who didn't know anything about it. I will bet it wouldn't work because, frankly, I can't figure out what you're referring to and I proposed the sentence. Give a word for word translation back into English.

4

**Conlang Dude** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy "jan Tono Tunpu li pakala e pali pi jan Kemu Komi la ona li ken pakala e lukin pi pakala pi lawa pi jan ale pi ma Lusa pi jan Kemu Komi."

34

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I know that's a language which also doesn't have words for numbers beyond two, or is it three. Other than that, perhaps like you, I don't really know much about it. I do know that the people who use it would have to have more specific means of talking about complex things than Toki pona provides or they'd all have died out. ...

3

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy So?

34

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

So comparing a real language with Toki pona and claiming that TP can stand on an equal footing with it is absurd. In the context of the lives of the people who speak Priaha, it's clear they don't require numbers larger than two. Who in among the Toki pona community lives a life where they can get away with such innumeracy?

If they tried to conduct business at the U.N. in Toki Pona I wonder what they'd be able to do. I'm fairly confident that they'd be able to do most of not all of it in Esperanto, or Ido, for that matter. Claude Piron was a UN interpreter, by the way.

I really would like to see how many people who didn't know anything about the Trump-Putin deal would know that's what your translation of that sentence was talking about because I



SIGN IN

Show less

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

OK, so neither of you will do the exercise of giving a word for word retranslation back into English so people will know what you think means what the original says. I took yours and put it in an online Toki pona to English translator - so no one can say I twisted it and this is what yours says

person Tono Tunpu is blunder such work belonging to people Kemu Komi it's said he is is able to blunder such see belonging to blunder belonging to head of people ale of land Lusa belonging to people Kemu Komi

Here's what it gave back for Nathan Harding's

reptile conflict person activity such James Kome to activity in order to blunder bad such Lusia work community to be in/at/on be there is such negative to eye is wisdom

If you want to give your own word for word retranlations, I would like to see them.

Show less

**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Toki Pona isn't *meant* to be used to conduct business at the U.N.

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy you cant do word for word translations because a) what is and is not a word isnt a concrete thing b) toki pona doesnt have words for "to fire", "to hack", "to elect", "to stop" or "russia"

**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Of course a machine translation isn't going to work for Toki Pona, jesus lord almighty. All you've been doing this whole time is constructing a point of view specifically designed to shit on Toki Pona and glorify precious Esperanto, and repeating it over and over again without giving any justification or reason why any of us should give a rat's ass what *you* think a "real" conlang

is. To be entirely honest Anthony, if you don't think it's interesting to make an experimental conlang that explores what language is and what it's capable of, I don't know what the *fuck* you're doing in the conlang community. Either explain to us why this wild distinction you're making is somehow neither meaningless or arbitrary, or shut up about how good you're stupid new radio shows are and how this other language *intentionally designed* not to encompasslicated ideas is bad for not being able to express complex ideas over and over forever.



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

So, you do it, retranslate what you translated into Toki pona, word for word so people who haven't spent the several days it takes to be able to master its 120 words and grammar will know what you think contains the meaning of the original so they can judge if it's clear what it's talking about.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You could translate the words you claim carry the same meaning of the original sentence, that it would prove my point that Toki pona cannot function as a real language but only - as a means of saying extremely simple things- as its inventor intended. It can't translate Moby Dick as was claimed, it can't even translate that one sentence and produce a clear meaning as to what is ...

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Why, Donnie, I didn't think you spent your time on Youtube conlang comment threads. I have a feeling that Comey, when he's asked, under oath will deny what Trump claims about him telling him that - especially the version in the interview with Lester Holt because Comey isn't stupid enough to have broken the law by setting up a quid pro quo (how do you translate that into Toki pona, I wonder). Donald Trump has criminal reasons to have tried to stop the investigation into his campaign and regime committing treason with the Putin crime family, I can only imagine how many family members and associates he's going to pardon as he flees on a chopper with a guarantee by Pence (assuming he hasn't already been forced out) that he'll pardon him like Ford pardoned Nixon.

Why does it surprise me that the rest of it sounds like Trump, too?

Show less

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

So you don't do English particularly well, do you. I listened to the hearing where Clapper and Yates testified, that's not what they said.

Apparently the reason you don't notice that Toki pona isn't a real language able to deal specifically with anything but the simplest level of vague communication because you don't think at a very high level, either.

How many of the guys I've been arguing with are your sock puppets?

Show less

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy they dont do english at all they speak it





SIGN IN

14

**Conlang Dude** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy Anthony McCarthy "jan Tono Tunpu li pakala e pali pi jan Kemu Komi la ona li ken pakala e lukin pi pakala pi tomo lawa pi jan ale pi ma Lusa pi jan Kemu Komi."

[honorific] Donald Trump (closest TP approximation) destroys the job of [honorific] James Comey (again a TP approximation) so/to he can destroy the looking of the destruction of the head house of all people by Russia of James Comey.

Show less

34

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

What did I say that was not true?

No one who didn't know what was going on in the news would have understood either of those sentences in Toko pona. "mi povas diri unu aferon al vi" really, which online translator did YOU use.

Eble ili kredas ke vi pravas, "kredas" cxar ili ne pensas. Ili scias nenion pri la problemoj de interkomunikado. Por ili, estas ret-ludilo.

Friggin' TP has got me all messed up. Bah!

Show less

2

**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Just so no-one gets me mistaken, I am *not* a trump supporter.

62

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I wonder how many of those are your sockpuppets.

And as I told someone above, mordu min.

1

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I suspect that one of your commentators might be the anti-Esperanto troll Bruce Gilson who used to infest conlang discussions, he was a right wing Republican, as I recall.

1

**sethraptor** 3 years ago

rawr XD bites u >w<





youtube?? also ive never ever seen, heard or otherwise communicated with someone who i knew was white as quickly as you

👍 52 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

sethraptor we must be annoying the fuck out of mitch

👍 38 🗨️



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

Sorry Mitch

👍 100 🗨️ ❤️



**Luis Manuel Ontiveros** 3 years ago

Lol. I'm still getting my daily update of this mess :v

👍 34 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I have no idea why several people who obviously know nothing about conlangs are doing this, I'm just answering them. As a comment down thread says, I'm getting updates on this and most of them seem to be attacking what I said. I don't have any problem answering them because most of the stuff is either silly on its face or stuff that was said in conlang discussions before the word was invented and before most of you were born.

That one or more of them are suckers for Donald Trump even as he proves himself to be a liar, a traitor and a pathological falling despot doesn't surprise me.

Show less

👍 3 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy yes youre right akira (and almost definitely seth, mike s, etc.) and i have made conlangs but we dont know what they are according to you, and im not a narcissist im a fucking dumbass who hates themselves but seth, akira and i havent said a word that's untrue or false (unless it was sarcastic but youre a big boy, you can figure that out yourself)

👍 29 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

A conlang made by someone who has a habit of attributing statements to people who haven't made them, I wonder what that would be like. Where is it published, I want to see it.

It's no great achievement to having constructed a language project, as Don Harlow pointed out in that chapter I recommended to you, Mario Pei said he used to get several sent to him every month. The only one that has ever been more than a scheme or a project, both generating an actual user community which uses it for actual communication on a sufficient level, over more



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy im sorry are you genuinely trying to say that one's personality and traits come across in their conlang(s)? i'm sorry, are you really that stupid? also, sorry, you're right, nothing seth, akira, etc. and i has ever made is a real conlang, because they're not as good as esperanto



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Getting insults from someone like you don't bother me. If you'd given me reasons to respect your thinking it might.

If you want to create a language which no one but yourself will ever use, go ahead. I don't care. But the idea of a conlang is to communicate among people who aren't contained in your own head.

Eventually most normal people want to talk with other people about something other than conlangs so they'll want an actual language they can learn easily, use naturally with which to talk to other people. It isn't a geeky form of gaming niche, it's a means of communication with normal people about other things.

Show less



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy you havent given any of us a reason to respect your thinking, because it's fucking stupid. and no, the idea of a conlang is not to communicate with others, it is an art form and of course you're gonna come up with some bullshit that only makes sense to you to refute that.



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy also, what the fuck, who said conlanging was a "gaming niche"? what the fuck are you on about?



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

Apparently that's what it is for you. A language that can't communicate, that exists in the inventor's head, you don't need the word "conlang" for that, there's already a term for a language only one person can understand, it's called a "dead language" or, when no one else ever has or ever will understand it an aborted language. I wonder how many of your fellow gamester...



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Now you're just being a silly billy. I'm old enough that I remember when conlang discussions it the equivalent of the Society For Putting Things On Top of Other Things. It was about



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy each other's\*

👍 8 💬



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy "silly billy"?? jesus christ man

👍 38 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

So you don't want to reveal to the world how you would order a cup of coffee in your invented language?

How many of you geeks have learned each others languages? I'm guessing that you NEVER ...

👍 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I was trying to use language you might understand.

👍 💬



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy you cant order cups of coffee because there arent any words for cup or coffee (yet) and it doesnt fucking matter if we learn eachother's or whoever uses them, a (con)language's worth is not defined on the amount of people who learn it and are you seriously calling us "geeks"?? do you live in the 1950s?? and also, we're geeks but you've been having ...

👍 44 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Is there a word for "douchebag"?

So, you're telling me, pretty much, that your imaginary language is essentially as real as an imaginary friend.

👍 2 💬



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

My favorite kong lang is the DK rap

👍 89 💬



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy where the fuck did the imaginary friend come from what the fuck are you on about you crazy old fuck

👍 29 💬





SIGN IN

35

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

If you can't order coffee in it, I've got no use for it.

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy good for you

48

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

"Crazy old fuck" as opposed to someone who makes up languages that no one will ever speak or use and which apparently aren't supposed to be communicated with.

If you can't deal with an absolutely obvious simile like that one, I'd really love to see what your invented languages are supposed to be like.

Do I get points for avoiding saying "callow young dick" for this long?

Show less

2

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy i do want people to see them which is why i post about them on reddit also no you dont get any fucking points this isnt a game jesus christ you are painful to communicate with

38

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle i dont know if i pronounced it right but damn that\* sounds good (\* = assuming i pronounced it right)

6

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle ive been doing spanish in school for two years and you can tell that very easily by the fact that i didnt realize that wasnt spanish (although to be fair most auxlangs borrow heavily from spanish), also i thought the spanish for and was y not e?? anyway thats a great looking script

4

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle oh and also i was confused by the fact you said you spoke two languages, neither of which were espagnol (dont have n tilde on this keyboard)

4



5



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Go ahead.



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy what a scathing retort

11



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle thats pretty damn impressive man congrats

3



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I let him have that one. It wasn't worth topping.

Raymond Chandler, Playback



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

You could have just said the quote without citing it and saved me ten seconds of googling

29



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I don't quote without attribution. Though I might paraphrase.

Why did you google it? Fact checking?



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I don't know who raymond chandler is, lol

29



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

If that's meant to be ironic, it's not. If it's true, I used to remember when people who liked to pretend they were smart made a minimum of effort at appearing informed. And here I thought my generation was a come down from the one before it.



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I don't think that not recognizing the name of a novelist from the 30s makes me uninformed.



SIGN IN

He wrote up into the 1950s and as he's one of the most popular novelists America has had.  
Yeah, it does make you uninformed.

You ever hear of Faulkner? Steinbeck?

What do they teach in schools these days?

Show less



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy youre a teacher and you dont know what they teach in schools?? youre the uninformed one



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I have teach private lessons, I haven't taught in a classroom in more than a decade.

So, you know who Faulkner and Steinbeck were?



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

I'm not that into literature outside of some sci-fi, and no they don't make you read hardboiled detective fiction in school. There's lots of things in the world to give your attention to, I don't think you can really rag on a guy for not knowing every important author, nowadays especially.



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

i dont have teach private lessons

old white people most likely



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

darn young'uns and your scientitism



**sethraptor** 3 years ago

If I knew I was going to be playing Jeopardy today, I would have studied.



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

My typical student is in their teens to early 20s.



SIGN IN



BLACK SHEEP 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy how the fuck do you know

19



Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago

I've read your comments.

Are you so stupid that you didn't see how I would answer that? If you're not Bruce Gilson you're his reincarnation.

1

Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago



At least tell me you know who Faulkner and Steinbeck are. I won't open a vein if you don't but it will shock me.



BLACK SHEEP 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy i know i just wanted to annoy you, also i already said i dont know

13



Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago

I can hardly wait for you to publish your con lang. I forget, was yours the one which uses G. B. Shaw's alphabet? If so, a. it will never be adopted, b. you do know that Shaw wrote stuff, don't you.



BLACK SHEEP 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy you seem to have extreme difficult in typing the word "conlang", you've called them "conglangs", "conlangues" and now "con langs", theyre only 8 letters like come on youre a grown man

36



BLACK SHEEP 3 years ago

Akira Enderle well obviously its not in esperanto and itll never work because its not esperanto and everything needs to be like esperanto because its the only real conlang

29



Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago

Do you "like" your own comments?

Esperanto is the only conlang which has a large, international user community, an actual, readable literature, a history of continual use, actual usefulness, etc. It is used expertly by many people whose mother tongues are from a large number of family groups - not merely Indo-European. It is easily learned and in the experience of those who take the small effort to master



SIGN IN

century with just about complete comprehension. Whereas other languages such as Ido produce factions and schisms and one "reform" after another, always in the process of reformers coming up with reforms all on their own, Esperanto is stable going on a century and a quarter of actual use with minimal changes which don't impinge on its stability.

Let me know when even one person can actually say something in your language project, never mind the one other fluent user of it, the bare minimum for a language to actually exist as a language, before one of them stops using it or dies to join the other thousands of still-born constructed languages.

I'm more interested in using a language than in fantasizing about the language. I don't have lifetimes to wait for those fantasies to produce something useful and I don't need to because that already exists.

You are childish.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

The Shaw alphabet is used by no one except, apparently, those who want to get hold of money from the Shaw estate.

I was vaguely aware of it and that Androcles and the Lion had been issued in the alphabet. Reading a little - about as much time as I hope to spend on it in my life - I see that Androcles attempts to reproduce British received pronunciation which I sure as hell won't adopt, so the pretense that it is phonetic is out the window right there. I also see that someone has used it to publish some Poe. As Poe grew up in several different places in early early to mid 19th century United States and certainly didn't speak with a Brit Received pronunciation, I wonder if the imposition of it on his words isn't a complete distortion of them. I'd have to hear someone reading his poetry and prose in the Brit received to judge how ridiculous it was.

You do know that Poe was a writer, don't you?

I also see that, as with Ido, the supposed advocates of it disagree about what sounds to assign to the various letters. Let me know when there is universal agreement about that. In about a thousand years when it will all be more than moot.

People wined about the handful of accents in written Esperanto and thought that was a breaking point - though the use of "x" has arisen as a perfectly viable alternative to that even above Zamenhof's suggestion of using an "h" in that role. I use it all the time while typing, using a tiny little program to make those into accented letters at the touch of a key. Looking at the Shavian alphabet I count about five letters that would be recognizable to anyone who uses a Latin alphabet, so it turns that complaint about Esperanto on its head proposing an even less recognizable means of written communication. And considering such things as "ligatures" - ed, it is a thing of dotty eccentricity.



I can't think of a practice that would more quickly relegate a proposed language to a still birth. I'd suggest you rethink that one.

Show less

👍 2 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy i wouldnt suggest they rethink, your word is not law, stop acting as though you have some kind of intellectual authority because you know a bunch of writers

👍 23 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Well, I'm glad you realize that someone reading about the Shavian alphabet for about twenty minutes online and noting the actual non-use of it and its ridiculously impractical and rather stupid features wouldn't make someone an "intellectual authority" on it. Though, far less, would not knowing that make someone an authority....

👍 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy stupidity ensues though you cannot spell conlang right and youve repeated ignored the use of question marks. do not call people stupid if you dont know anything of their

intellect. im conversational in finnish, afrikaans and french and im well versed in the fields of astronomy, particle physics (to a lesser degree), neuroscience (lesser degree) and linguistics. i ...

👍 15 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Now you're getting whiny. If you hadn't noticed, Youtube comment's aren't exactly your higher level of university press. I'd rather include a few typos and misspellings (I'll bet you're unfamiliar with Shaw as a critic of standard English spelling) than to spout total nonsense and ignorance.

I can assure you, kid, that I'm a teacher going on many decades, having gone through undergrad and grad school before the age of spell check. You know, back when you were expected to have read something by writers like Steinbeck and Faulkner and others. Even people who went on to major in what they call STEM subjects, these days. Maybe you spent too much time on Aqua Teen and video games.

Anyone who thinks anyone uses the Shavian alphabet except to get money from his estate is silly. I would bet the fewer than a handful of books and the several issues of one magazine published in it have been read by more than about twenty to fifty people in the entire history of the effort. Including the authors and publishers, is silly. Probably only including them. It is a farce that Shaw couldn't do justice to. Mel Brooks came close in a movie script dealing with fraud for profit.

Show less







SIGN IN

Go look at his signatures, not to mention the spelling in the First Folio. Whoever wrote those plays and poems sure as hell wouldn't have known how to spell "conlang".

I doubt your alleged resume is any more real than your constructed "language". The idea that it's like an imaginary friend gains credibility with every one of your comments. You might be able to bluff your fellow "conlang" ranger boys with that but don't try to pull it on me, kid.

Show less



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy no, also they also wouldnt have been able to spell "phenomenology" because it wasnt a word at the time, as was not "conlang". also also, the inability of shakespeare to spell his own name is not at all relevant to your most-of-the-time misspelling of "conlang" also also also, are you honestly comparing yourself to shakespeare because you cant spell a word?? you are a ridiculous man

do you think im making this all up?? for my own entertainment, or perhaps to stoke my massive ego and assert my dominance as the intellectual he-oh wait, that's what you're doing. you think your knowledge of a bunch of irrelevant writers overrides my intelligence because i dont share the same views as you. i think toki pona is a valid conlang and that esperanto isnt that good and somehow that nullifies all the actually important things i know, because you dont agree. everyone who doesn't think the exact same as you is completely wrong because they arent you. are you really that solipsistic, that craven, self obsessed, that obsessed with self-assurance and validation that you base your views on others with how their's coincide with yours?? you're a grown man and whether or not youre good in arguments youre obviously a smart man with a class so grow up and act like the big boy you are

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Well, he couldn't spell his own name. That was there.

I remember the champion speller in my class had a knack of visual memory but he was of rather low intelligence. I think he ended up working for the owner of a chain of laundromats. Don't know what he's doing now.

You'd have thought Emily Dickinson was an idiot too. You heard of her?

You're just sulking now. It's not much fun to tease someone who just sulks.

Show less



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy youre just rambling about irrelevant shit that has nothing to do with anything





You are nuts.



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy no i am human



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle minä pidän tämää kaverea



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

My argument is that if people had problems with 6 accented letters in Esperanto they weren't about to adopt an alphabet that had only five letters they'd recognize at all.

Let me know when your imaginary friend and you can talk together in your imaginary language for 20 minutes at a time.

No, cancel that, I don't really care.

I suspect I knew most of those moons decades before you were born, bunky. I was a bit of a science geek when I was a kid.

Show less



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy only one of your last five replies have mentioned those six (not including this one of course), boy you will not let this imaginary friend thing go will you?? i didnt realize your massive knowledge of english literature gave you extensive insights the complex neurological

functions, patterns and idiosyncrasies of our brains. why ask if you dont wanna see it?? what ...



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

im sorry mitch rllly



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle is your reddit account akso akiraenderle?? im looking forward to seeing it, what's it called?





SIGN IN

...you're helping your ignorance and confusion.

Do you "like" your own comments or do you "like" each other's? You should look up the song ...

👍 1 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I think you should look up the history of all of those things you apparently figure were invented since you were born. I probably studied Spanish and German before you were born, too. Not to mention C++ though the last time I was associated with a college Pascal was the groovy language, I looked it up C++ was first published in 1985. Had you been born yet?

I doubt you know more than the word phenomenology I probably read Husserl before your parents were born. Look him up, bunky, he died in 1938. I'm assuming you know who he was, though that's assuming more than is safe with you.

I have found it funny to have you youngsters figuring that such stuff was after my time.

Show less

👍 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Good luck with that "gather a large community around it" part of your scheme. I wouldn't suggest holding your breath waiting for it to happen.

I thought you boys were whining that this thread was getting too long and here you keep it going.

👍 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy "i doubt you know more about the word phenomenology i read husserl before your parents were born"??? what???

👍 19 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Do I friggin' have to spell it out for you E-D-M-U-N-D H-U-S-S-E-R-L. If you don't know who he was you don't know crap about phenomenology. Let me guess, you read the word someplace and figured it sounded impressive. Geesh, what a bunch of phonies you guys are.

👍 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Will prove me wrong in what sense and on what topic? If it's on constructing the universally accepted and used uber-perfect universal language, Zamenhof was a genius who came closest to doing that as proven by the history of the effort. Many of them thar professional linguists touted here tried to outdo him, some of them quite famous in their day. and their attempts are either totally dead or have been kept alive as brain dead corpses, just barely.



SIGN IN

What in the world ever happened to the idea of a liberal education? Well, I guess I should ask what ever happened to the idea of AN education.

Show less



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy phenomenology is the study of the structures of consciousness from the first person and no i used it bc i like how it sounds



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy also dont talk to us about spelling mr conglangue



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

If you don't know Edmund Husserl you don't know, literally, the first thing about phenomenology. You are a B. S. artist.



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy i dont know who he is but i do know the first thing about phenomenology which is that it's the first person study of structures of consciousness. there's no point knowing who made something before you know what the thing itself is



**Daniel Alorbi** 3 years ago

Nathan Harding Nathan Harding What's the argument about? Sounds like one guy likes Esperanto a lot dislikes Toki Pona a lot and everyone else is trying to show him that he should consider Toki Pona a conlang. It looks like it's devolved into questioning each other's authenticity too.

I'm going to give a stab at providing some facts

Everyone in this discussion at least knows more about conlangs and linguistics than the average person

Toki Pona was designed to be a simplistic conlang, the creator believes it to be one.

Esperanto has a big community, (possibly the biggest of existing conlangs)

Anthony measures conlangs against their potential to be used in everyday situations and expressiveness compared to natural languages

In conclusion Anthony will not accept that Toki Pona is a good conlang or even "truly" a conlang. Other members will not accept that only Toki Pona is not a conlang.

Sound about right?



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Not exactly, Toki pona with its c. 120 word vocabulary cannot function as a language in real life. It's the conlang equivalent of a sheltered workshop.

If you want to see some discussion of people who knew what they were talking about, look up ...

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

If you don't know the literature of phenomenology you don't know anything about it except what you'll find in a dictionary or encyclopedia (and those would probably mention Husserl). And in the case of phenomenology, you can't get around the writings of Edmund Husserl which are the origin and heart of matter. It would be like claiming to know about physics without knowing th...

**Grumble Bee** 3 years ago (edited)

Anthony McCarthy Oh my god this is hilarious but at the same time sad. But mostly sad. Sometimes I hate being an Esperantist.



46

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

What's hilarious about it?

Cxu vi vere estas samideiano? Mi ne kredas ke vi vere estas.

**Hæven** 3 years ago

a



21

**Rynabunny** 3 years ago (edited)

I think you all have valid points. Anthony thinks of conlangs as tools for communication. To them, a bad conlang is one that fails at that (by being too simplistic, in the case of Toki Pona). The others think of a conlang as having its own purposes. Someone said conlang creation is an artform. Some people, myself included, create conlangs for fun and/or for personal use. They don't have to be perfect, or good for communication, or even useable (e.g. kay(f)bop(m)!). For a personal conlang, they just have to make its creator satisfied and it will have achieved its purpose. Different conlangs set out to achieve different goals. Esperanto arguably achieves a lot of its goals (relatively simple to learn, useful tool for communication) and yes, it is a good conlang in my opinion. But that doesn't automatically make Toki Pona a bad one. The latter also achieves its primary goals (extreme simplicity and ease of learning), perhaps even overachieving.

So I guess Anthony has a fairly narrow view of what a conlang should be, and that's fine! But it should be understood that not all conlangs had/have/will have exactly the same goals, and I



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

That's almost right, I distinguish between a language which is for communication and the creation of a pseudo-language structure which is not for communication but which is a personal amusement.

I said that I have no problem with people doing that if they want to or even playing with it, such as was the case of the Esperanto Youth Group of Toki Pona users who held a workshop-gathering session on it at a convention. I would like to hear how those people who can use a real con-lang for communications used it, wondering if they were able to give it an, as it were, maximal test of its limits. I don't have any problem with someone making up a pseudo-language using the Shavian alphabet but to compare a language like Esperanto or Ido to it is comparing apples to imaginary apples.

Show less

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

The inventor of a language isn't the one who decides if it goes from being a mere project into becoming a real language, a community of users of the language does that. Let me know how that works for you.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Un, maybe you should learn how to read English before you start counting your speakers before they hatch.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

OK, so you don't know much about politics, either.

Did Bernie Sanders say exactly what you put in quotes? Where's your citation?

I never said either of those things or the rest of it. The government "seizing the means of production" doesn't mean that something is socialism. As far as I'm concerned that's not socialism because it is only when the WORKERS own the means of production that it's socialism as far as I'm concerned.

You are a silly.

Show less

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Maybe you don't know how quotation works. When you say someone said something and put that something in quotation marks it indicates that you're claiming that they said what you put in





SIGN IN

of Horatio Alger. whos the banana republic now?

He talked about income equality, not socialism.

Geesh, where did you go to school?

As for the definition of socialism, you should have read a bit down the page because your own citation mentions that the meaning of socialism has meant different things and has changed over time. I believe it was Lenin who decided it meant that the government owned the means of production, something I've never agreed with, especially a non-democratic government.

I'm not interested in any kind of socialism which means anything but that the workers who produce the wealth of an entity own the means of production, not someone who lends them money and who got paid off with interest several generations ago. I'm against anything but egalitarian democracy that includes economic justice.

You are a boob.

Show less



**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

(200 comments)

(First posted a month ago)

(Most recent posted hours ago)

Guys.



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Hey, you make it 201.

I'm just answering people. If no one had responded to my first comment I'd probably have forgotten making it by now.



**Ryan** 3 years ago

Nice English m8.



**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

I have a question : are all esperantists douchebags and treat other languages with different purposes like trash ?

just asking...





SIGN IN

10

**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

btw did you know that Conlang Critic made a video about this comment ?

21

**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Is2DealYou Яаgиa well its not esperanto so much it must be ridiculously terrible unless its mimicing esperanto

12

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Since you obviously mean me, what language did I do anything other than describe? Since we're talking about inventions, invented languages being inventions, if they don't work as a means of communication they're essentially games, in the case of most of those discused here, the equivalent of solitaire since no one else in the world but the inventor is ever going to even bother to learn of their existence or learn them. The one whose author claims they're going to use the Shavian alphabet doesn't even seem to have done the actual inventing, it's more of a fantasy than a game.

I don't care what silly people do among themselves but any real language is there for the purpose of communication between people. If it's only meant for the inventor to use, that's not a language. In most cases it's not even a personal code because talking about what they're intending to do is as far as it goes.

The historical fact is that the only conlang to have ever gained a substantial body of users who use it is Esperanto. It has stood the test of time and use since the end of the 19th century. If you learn the language as it's used today, you will have little, if any, trouble reading what's written in it for the entire history of the language. Ido has never had that level of stability and nothing like the flexibility. Though it is certainly simple to learn - if they'd stopped fiddling with it they might have gotten somewhere.

A lot was made in early conlang online discussion of Novial by one Bruce Gilson who managed to gather a few people together to make what I'm sure they believed would be just one last "reform" of that disused conlang before it took the lead. From what I gather, that effort petered out c. 1998 or so. This discussion is about on that same level. I've seen this B.S. for going on two decades now.

Show less

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

No, for some reason I have no interest in listening to it.

**Nicholas Layton** 3 years ago (edited)



SIGN IN

exercise in futility. It's mental masturbation at best and will never be anything useful to anyone, ...

👍 10    💬



**You Safar** 3 years ago

[#notallesperantists](#)

People like Anthony are the main reason people kabei though (in my opinon).

👍 28    💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Oh, bite me.

👍    💬



**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

This is probably the largest comment argument in youtube i had seen.

👍 62    💬



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy the definition you see in a dictionary or encyclopaedia is the first thing about that thing, that's kinda the point

👍 10    💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

If people hadn't said what they did to my first comment I wouldn't have posted a second one here.

I've seen longer but, yeah, this has gone on a long time. But there is a precedent in the actual history of conlangs, I'd start that with the first agitation of the Ido promoters. I think the subsequent history of "better" conlangs and how, one after another, they went nowhere is an indication of what the future of them will be like. Meanwhile, Esperanto is the only one which has had any notable success. It is the only one with any proven history of actual use.

Show less

👍    💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Oh, so the definition of a word that they put first is the only real, right way to use a word and the rest of those uses, often by some very fine authors and thinkers, is, by that arbitrary fiat, wrong.

Well, there are some people who don't agree with that arbitrary rule which was never a rule I wa...

👍 1    💬



**You Safar** 3 years ago (edited)

You are assuming that all conlangs measure of success is how widespread their use is. In fact it s like a lot of the methods you use to dismiss other peoples points are based on using your



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Actually, what I thought was that he didn't know what he was talking about generally.

I said from the beginning that if anyone wants to play with Ido or Logban or some one of the other thousands of proposed language projects, I have no problem with them doing it. I don't have any problem with people making up some kind of personal code system as a language. But I do have a huge problem with them a. misrepresenting the history and content and proven usability of the one and only invented language to have gained a widespread user community. b. misrepresenting the success of other projects which failed to even gain a fixed form that people could learn without any guarantee that what they learned wouldn't be deemed "wrong" within a month of them learning it.

I don't have any interest in expanding my criticism of the author of the video except to say what I have.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I don't think I'm going to change my mind that you are a very silly person who doesn't know what he's talking about and who doesn't know much of anything about Esperanto as it is used by the largest number of users of an invented language in the history of the effort to create one. That is if you don't count Bahasa Indonesia (a semi-invented language) which was imposed by government fiat and conquest.

I have never heard an Esperantist mention the "fina venko" except to tell jokes about the idea. Forcibly converting anyone to using Esperanto is entirely contrary to the intentions of Zamenhof and any sensible Esperantist I've ever read. It was always intended as a second language for communication between people who didn't share a common language, it was never intended to supplant peoples' first languages, like English and others have.

Show less



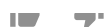
**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy They share different opinions to you regarding Esperanto, so, of course, they're wrong and "very silly"



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

People are entitled to their own opinions they aren't entitled to their own "facts". The history is what it is, it isn't what they want it to be, the body of present day Esperanto users is what it is, and you can compare that with what their fantasy "languages" they seem to prefer talking about instead of inventing are not what they are not.



**You Safar** 3 years ago

I know you said you don't want to expand but I'm going to ask anyways. Which facts? Do you mean in this video? Or are you talking about the esperanto video? Mi pardonpetas pri la demandado, but I don't understand why you chose this video, or even this platform, for whatever point it is you are trying to make. Are you just upset that he was dismissive instead of asking fo...



10



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Things went way past a critique of the video a long, long time ago.

When I started this I intended to make one comment and if no one had answered it, it is the only comment I would have made. When I get notifications that people are responding to what I said, I don't see why I don't get to respond to them and when they start being snarky why I can't snark back. One thing I don't think I've been whiny or, as they say in Newfoundland, a sook. Not all who have commented here can say the same, honestly.

Show less



1



**You Safar** 3 years ago

You can't deny you've been a little snarky, but I agree with you, people have been a little combative. It's silly for you to blame people responding to you, however. What made you think people would be okay with you taking a pot shot at the creator of the video, and that they wouldn't call you out on it? I'm almost getting the impression that you never had a real critique ...



19



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Oh, for heavens sake, I'm not the one who's been whining about the length of this discussion thread that's the people who have been saying things I can respond to.

You are all Bruce Gilsons, phonies who won't ever come up with anything as you resent the ...



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Well, you got that they were at school and they were talking and there is a blond guy in the story and a few other things but, as I suspected, it didn't even carry the information in the first and easiest chapter in the book. I'd really love to read someone try to express what Linda was thinking about what she'd do if the blond guy got up and walked out. And that's not even nearly the most complex part of the story, coming in, if I recall correctly, about the first third of the book.

I doubt it could deal with the even earlier chapter when Tom is trying to talk the Nurse into coming to take care of Gerda who has collapsed in the hall.



SIGN IN

Show less

**You Safar** 3 years ago

I don't know, the translation looks pretty good to me, although I've read Gerda and you're right, this isn't the most complicated chapter, although none of them really are complicated, and the story is straightforward enough I'm sure anything that was confusing could be guessed. It wouldn't be very elegant (some nested ni/pi statements, surely), but the story could be translated if someone felt the desire to do it.

(to anyone considering it, please direct your expertise towards marvirinstrato instead! Meduset is begging to be in toki pona, and mine isn't good enough to write yet)

Anthony, have you seen the monty python translation? It's very good:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20041116173522/http://www.geocities.com/tokipona/text/mphg.html>

Show less

**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

I think I get Anthony's point of view: Any language out there that isn't designed for communication does not deserve to be called a language. (Or it fails to be one).

**You Safar** 3 years ago

1) There are more dimensions to a language than its ability to be specific and; 2) There is also communication with yourself internally. Since you already know what you're talking about, it doesn't matter if you're able to be specific. This being valid depends on whether or not you believe that the language(s) you know change the way you think. I do, obviously.

I understand the point of view, It's just limited IMO. A language is, or at the very least can be, more than just a tool for interpersonal communication.

Show less

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

A personal code is not the business of anyone else and I doubt it's interesting to anyone else. I don't have any problem with people doing whatever they want to as long as they're honest about the nature of it and don't claim that it compares to real languages which are designed to communicate with other people. By making public claims of that sort, they've taken it outside of the internal, personal realm and anyone can comment on it if they choose to.

I said I didn't have any problem with anyone playing with Toki Pona or any other "language" as long as they were making absurd claims for it.

Show less





The original sentence I challenged someone to translate was, "Donald Trump fired James Comey to try to stop the Russian election hacking investigation".

👍 1 🗨️



**You Safar** 3 years ago

"jan Donald Trump li kama e ni: jan James Comey li jo ala e pali tan ni: ona li wile pake e ni: ona li lukin e ante losi pi wile ma"

Not my translation, but it's pretty close.

👍 14 🗨️



**You Safar** 3 years ago

Also can we please not have an off-topic debate about russians or trump or comey start in this thread.

👍 17 🗨️



**You Safar** 3 years ago

"place desire" = country will / desire of the land / election.

Donald Trump caused this:

James Comey doesn't have a job because:

he wanted to stop this:

he was looking into the Russian change of the will of the land

My best guess.

Show less

👍 11 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Donald Trump SAID HE FIRED JAMES COMEY TO STOP THE RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION. The rest of it was window dressing and a smoke screen.

You have obviously bought the neo-fascist, FOX narrative that pretends that Trump didn't say ...

👍 1 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

It is not off-topic because I was giving an example of something important that Toki Pona could not express.

I wasn't aware that there was some ban on subject matter on this comment thread, there was plenty of extraneous junk brought in by those opposing me, Phenomenology, for crying out loud, and by someone who obviously didn't know more than the word without knowing what it meant.

Try translating that into Toki Pona.

Show less



want to say Trump said you just add jan Trump toki e ni.. If you want to say he dreamt it you could add that. If you wanted to say he wasn't sure if he dreamt it or not but it probably happened you could say that too. How far back did you want to move the goalposts this time?

👍 17 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I meant a "translation" of what I said in the comment.

The "translations" a. don't contain the content of the original sentence, b. convey the meaning of the sentence, c. let anyone who doesn't know what is in the original sentence know what it says. Those "translations" are not translations anymore than a circle drawn on a piece of paper is a portrait of a real person.

How many languages do you speak? I mean real ones, not "Toki Pona".

Show less

👍 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You are a Republican idiot and a traitor to democracy.

👍 1 🗨️



**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

You people are in politics now?

👍 26 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago (edited)

+Akira Enderle

"Libertarian"

Well, there's your problem. Now can we please get back to watching Anthony spend over **three irrecoverable months of his life** actively writing about how a language can't be simple lest it lose its status as a language? Don't get me wrong, I'm enjoying this thread in the same way I like to go laugh at /r9k/ sometimes, but fucking really? This is still happening? Either way, we're here for the linguistics, get out of here with this shit Akira. (Also, Akira, was the near-impeachment of Nixon treachery towards democracy? He was, after all, democratically elected. Don't actually answer that, you're proving nothing, and this is derailed enough.)

I would also kindly suggest that any future commentators also take this discretion.

(Also, direct question to Anthony: the information is being retained, you just have to jump through some grammatical hoops. Is that not okay? Is Japanese not a real language because the grammatically correct sentence "Watashi wa ringo ga suki desu" translates to English literally as "As for myself, apple(s) are liked (by me)" instead of "I like apples"? Is Lojban not a language for its reliance on abstract predicate logic to fuel its grammar (Can't give an example, I only know basic theory, not actual words/syntax)? Spanish translates "I am 20 years old" to "Tengo 20 años" back to "(I) have 20 years", is that unacceptable? Is it simply the number of

essions that Toki Pona must make that invalidates it? Even with all these questions, there's



SIGN IN

rhyming? Take all this with a grain of salt of course, since I do not speak toki pona, but I would still like clarification rather than "The language is too simple to speak complex thought with. Oh, you want an example? Nah, it's pretty self-evident, please translate something for me. When we back translated it, it sounds clunky and doesn't contain every detail I wanted but did not specify, so you've just proved my point, lol.")

Show less

👍 29 🗨️



**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

Why is this discussed here instead of Conlang Critic's Esperanto Video?

👍 14 🗨️



**You Safar** 3 years ago

Why are politics discussed in a conlang video? I'm convinced Anthony offered up that sentence just to ignore the translation that was offered and pretend like he had a good reason to yell at strawmen about Trump. People, don't be like Anthony, learn toki pona instead of Esperanto! (or learn both or neither, I don't care). If the we vs. Anthony argument can even still be considered a real, valid debate, I think it's become clear we're never going to win.

mi wile e ni: jan ali ni li kama sona e toki pona. Ĝis y'all

Show less

👍 18 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

Akira Enderle

Oh my god, this has to be bait. At least you're on topic...

👍 1 🗨️



**You Safar** 3 years ago (edited)

ni li kama jo ike: jan lawa kama jo e mani pi jan anpa

ni li kama jo ike: jan lawa li jo e mani pi jan anpa (second kama is probably not needed)

This is an immoral way to acquire: leaders (coming to) have the money from subjects

👍 6 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You have resorted to outright lying that is contradicted by the very claims of Donald Trump and the sworn testimony of people who have enormous credibility.

👍 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Toki pona isn't just "simple" it is inadequate for communication.

I didn't claim that Lojban wasn't a language, I said it was an invented language which was

needed to demonstrate a linguistic theory from the 1930s which just about no credible linguist



SIGN IN

between people who don't share a non-planned language.

You obviously share something with the people who have kept this going by spouting nonsense, you can't understand anything in any but the most ridiculously pat, black or white terms. Obviously the problem of coming up with a useful lingua franca used in addition to your native tongue is more complex than most of those here can deal with. As I said, I saw this kind of stuff on conlang comment treads back in the 1990s. You can still read those online. Anti-Esperantists tend to not know much of what they're talking about, though some pro-Idoists do, actually, know what they're talking about. I disagree with some of what they believe but at least they have some foot in reality.

Show less



**You Safar** 3 years ago

[tokipona.net](https://tokipona.net) works great, in addition to sonjas book. There aren't really an overwhelming number of resources so its acceptable, I think, to just try whatever you come across and see if you like it. Also, make sure to practice talking with other people, there are a few great chats on IRC/Discord/Facebook/Telegram, and probably others



**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

+Anthony Mcarthy

Oh, would you look at that, a continuation of an utter lack of example-based evidence, just more spouting of the self-evident "it's inadequate". Wow. I am trembling from utter fear.

+Akira Enderle...

Read more



**You Safar** 3 years ago

That's not a bad point, and you bring up a decent valid criticism of toki pona, which is the choice of certain shared definitions (and even the inclusion of certain words).

I personally learned toki pona mostly through Esperanto, so the inter-language point is intriguing to me. Although I think just memorizing phrases in another language would probably do as much good as learning the grammar and definitions involved with toki pona, it's still funny that both would probably work about as well.

More drama: My personal biggest problem with toki pona is that if someone does not understand something you say in toki pona, it can be almost impossible to explain it to them without resorting to another language, as most of the time it is difficult to find an entirely different way of phrasing something that means the same thing.

Show less



**Rae** 3 years ago



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

If no one had answered me with misinformation I'd have left it at the 1st comment.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

"My personal biggest problem with toki pona is that if someone does not understand something you say in toki pona, it can be almost impossible to explain it to them without resorting to another language, as most of the time it is difficult to find an entirely different way of phrasing something that means the same thing."

A language which needs another language to explain what is meant in it is no language at all. It reminds me of the description of the Volapuk meeting which had to be conducted in German because Volapuk was so cumbersome and that one of the early Ido propagandists had to correspond with LL Zamenof in French because he didn't know Esperanto. As well as the letter by another condemning Esperanto as compared to Ido which was written in Esperanto.

This discussion has convinced me of one thing, anyone who believes you can conduct your life in a language of 120 words either has a very simple-minded life or they are simple minded.

Show less

**You Safar** 3 years ago

You must be a very sad person to try to bait people you repeatedly insist you are superior than.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

That replying to me? You boys can stop any time and I can assure you I won't post another comment here. It's not as if any of it was at all difficult.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Oh, and, by the way, how come you guys use more than 120 words of English? I challenge you to carry on a conversation about this in Toki Pona among yourselves and see if you understand each other.

**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago (edited)

+Akira Enderle

It turns out that I actually do like the taste of bait. Anywho, you're ideals are flawed. Why can't there be conflicting material on a news outlet? A truly neutral news outlet would have opinions from both sides, and quite a few of those examples from the album do. I mean really, do you ...

Read more





SIGN IN

there but I guess that's what happens when a youtube comment thread lasts over three heckin months.

my favorite part of this (okay, ONE of my favorite parts of this. I can't just choose one part to like it's all so good) is that Anthony keeps saying that if nobody responded to his first comment this thread wouldn't've happened. it's really funny because the first comment he made was saying that I don't speak any con-languages that fit a really specific set of requirements that literally only apply to Esperanto and my response was literally just repeating the last thing he said and then after that I made a joke about being born after radios stopped being relevant

and somehow THAT provoked Anthony into writing these heckin essays about how toki pono or whatever it is isn't a real language because it doesn't have very many words (that's the point of the language, you dingus!)

my other favorite part is when he wrote a multiparagraph response to when sethraptor said "lol". that was really good

Show less

👍 109 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Conlang Critic cong-languages\* stupid kids

👍 28 🗨️



**BLACK SHEEP** 3 years ago

Conlang Critic in seriousness, yeah sethraptor has been amazing in this argument lmao

👍 25 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

"the first comment he made was saying that I don't speak any con-languages that fit a really specific set of requirements that literally only apply to Esperanto"

You should learn the difference between a question and a declarative sentence, at the very least you should actually re-read what I said in that comment which wasn't want you say.

"and my response was literally just repeating the last thing he said and then after that I made a joke about being born after radios stopped being relevant"

I wonder when you believe "radios stopped being relevant". I'm sure they'll find that interesting at the BBC, Deutsche Welle, All India Radio, Radio China, Voice of America, etc. As they still sell them and large parts of the world, especially in the developing world, depend heavily on radio you don't seem to know much about that either. Certainly a language which is broadcast regularly on the radio is more relevant than one which never has been and never will be. I wonder how you would define "relevance". How do you say "relevant" in Toki Pona?

^--- you complaining that people are commenting on your Youtube channel? That's weird, most





SIGN IN



jan Misali 3 years ago

don't get me wrong, I love everything about this thread. it's one of the funniest things I've ever seen and I'm glad to have inspired it. that bit there where you pretended not to know that it's possible to say something in the form of the question? fantastic! I love reading stuff like that



94



jan Misali 3 years ago

also, "relevant" is "suli". if you wanna get more specific, you could say something like "suli lon tenpo ni".



74



Alex Hayes 3 years ago

+Ramanuj Sarkar

Might as well derail it now, it's already become a political thread. Granted, it's being restored, but go ahead and work your magic.

This would usually be the point where I go silent and become a spectator again or just leave, b...



1



Dominic Maddock 3 years ago (edited)

Anthony McCarthy you absolute idiot! who said made-up languages have to have speakers, grammar or complexity? the whole point of making a language is that you can flip the tables, do things a natural language cannot do! a personal language is a personal language, and if it pleases yourself then you have successfully created a conlang.

your problem lies in your fixed mindset, you forget that we are able to do whatever the fuck we want. saying 'your conlang will never be spoken by anyone' shouldn't be an insult, it should be a compliment, that your ideas are unique and complex to you. sure, toki pona is simple, and sure, esperanto is more popular, but we should look past all the hate and see that all of these conlangs were successful in their goal, maybe to please the creator, creator's friends, or speakers around the world.

Show less



31



Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago

You illiterate gobshite, I have said anyone should do anything they wanted to all through this discussion. TRY READING, IF YOU CAN.

Gee, conlang guy, why aren't you whining about this continuing ?



4



You Safar 3 years ago

people should do whatever they want, in between declaring what is and isn't a language



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I suspect all your projects will have a similar history to Gilson's Novial project that began and died c. 1998. And he had a ready made language to work with.

**You Safar** 3 years ago

Why the quantitative measure of success though? Why can't something just be what it is and do what it does? Why are you figuring languages on a pass/fail anyways? I think you could benefit from learning toki pona, and I sincerely mean that :)

**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

I think I'm having an existential crisis guys... Is Anthony more or less pretentious than Nathaniel Hawthorne? I actually can't tell anymore...

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

I'm not the one who is pretending that Toki Pona is a real language.

At this point this is only interesting in so far as it reveals how silly you boys are.

**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

And I'm not the one creating laughably vague standards just to fail a conlang I don't like, demeaning an entire community just because they don't agree with me, and using the word "boy" as an insult.

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Wow, requiring of a language that it at least work to communicate to other people in fairly specific ways about at least everyday life, what a novel concept. You wonder why it didn't occur to anyone here before now. .

...

**You Safar** 3 years ago

I guess the natural response is it's not up to you to decide what a person wants or doesn't want their language, or to be fair, their art work, to be. There is no reason a language has to be designed to facilitate communication with other people. There's no reason it even has to make it possible to communicate with other people. Even though you refuse to understand this, a lot of...

**You Safar** 3 years ago



**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

"Communicate to other people in fairly specific ways about at least everyday life"

I love that you want a stupid fucking made up language to have specificity when you yourself refuse to use it in your own. How many times have I asked for specific examples by now? And how many times have you responded with "it's not specific enough"? The irony is so deliciously ...

👍 20 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)

I asked for someone to translate the first and easiest chapter of Gerda Malaperis into Toki Pona and the person came up with an inevitably vague garble that doesn't carry the information in the first chapter (nevermind the following chapters that grow increasingly complex and nuanced) only to have TPists claim that it was an accurate translation. I would challenge anyone to come up with a translation of it using 120 or 170 or 300 English language words that would convey the full meaning of the story, knowing that it couldn't be done, no matter how carefully you chose the English words to do it in. You couldn't come up with 120 Esperanto words that would do that, even with its agglutinative features of word creation.

You kids are what I said in my first comment here. You are superficial, some of the stupidest and least honest people I've ever encountered in a discussion of conlangs. You won't even try to make sense and, as you figure languages aren't for the purpose of accurate communication, you figure you don't need to.

This is playtime, nothing important.

Show less

👍 1 💬



**You Safar** 3 years ago

lol it's inevitably vague garble to you because despite this convo going on for 4 months you still haven't learned toki pona

also you just got dangerously close to admitting toki pona can do something esperanto can't, ...

👍 25 💬



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

You can leave it at any time you choose to. I'm always so interested in people who complain at the lengths of arguments online as they continue to lengthen them. Or doesn't that occur to you?

If you think that I "got dangerously close to admitting that toki pona can do something esperanto can't" in what I said, that only proves that your reading facility is only slightly less deficient than your reasoning ability. I will, though, admit that there is something Toki Pona can obviously do that Esperanto can't, make people make the most absurd claims about the ability of 120 words to comprise a complete language with the full abilities of a much larger vocabulary even as they



SIGN IN

**You Safar** 3 years ago

So you don't want to talk about any of the successful translations you have requested so far :(

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

A successful translation reproduces the information in the original in a way that someone who doesn't have access to the original would understand without recourse to another language.

Toki Pona can't do that except for the most simple of things, JUST AS ITS INVENTOR SAID SHE...

**You Safar** 3 years ago

That sentence you asked to be translated and the gerda translation both fit that criteria. The reason you specifically couldn't understand them is not because they were translated poorly, or they are unable to be translated, it's because you can't speak toki pona. Not that you can read it but how about the (absolutely perfect) translation of monty python and the holy grail which wa...

**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

Too much comments

**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

Is2DealYou Яаgia Same, but it's entertaining in its own right, kind of like watching a three month train wreck.

**You Safar** 3 years ago

yea;  
pona lukin = attractive, good looking  
suwi lukin = adorable, cute (although suwi alone works)  
etc

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

This thing has certainly shown that my first comment in this thread was true, it is silliness and that any serious view of the attempt to construct a workable, useful, easily learned lingua franca is best kept out of the hands of silly people. L.L. Zamenhof was not a silly person, nor a theoretician but a practical and brilliant man who made the only one which has survived more ...

**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago (edited)



I would like to know more about the people who read Volapuk and who might do those translations or use it for something. I think the complexity of it can be seen in its verb conjugation that has, if what I'm reading is correct, more than a thousand, five hundred possible inflections. Esperanto has six, which suffice for just about every purpose with some of the complexity of Schleyer's system taken up in a regular system of affixes which aren't nearly as complex. They're also not necessary for everyday use, for the most part.

I think that all of the older constructed languages that have failed to gain an ongoing user community should be considered as having failed for the purpose of doing that. I have no problem with people who want to use Volapuk doing what they want to, though if I had to learn a language of that complexity, I'd rather learn a non-constructed language that was a window into an existing culture. As it is, I've read many things by many people from many different places in Esperanto, not translations but directly from them in their own words, Mongolia, Croatia, Bulgaria, (many European countries) Japan, China, India, Iran, etc. which aren't available in English or in an English text directly written by the author. I've listened to many radio broadcasts and, even more, podcasts of spontaneous interviews in Esperanto, talking about things that have nothing to do with Esperanto. For me, any competitor conlang would have to top that to convert me.

Show less



**You Safar** 3 years ago

Why do you have to be converted, why can't you just learn both :(



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Granted, though after having had more than two decades of using Esperanto it would take a lot to convince me to learn another one. Someone once accused me of having Esperanto as a second language but it was not, it was considerably down the list. I can report, as I said earlier in this discussion, I find it far easier to use than French, my second language, which I use ...



**Phina Ibe** 3 years ago

Anthony McCarthy "The show that gets facts wrong about your favorite conlang!"



**Lyrion Rae** 3 years ago

Is it over?



**Anthony McCarthy** 3 years ago

Not as long as people keep it going. If no one had answered me it would have been over three  
1s ago with my first comment.



SIGN IN



jan misall 3 years ago

lol

86



Alex Hayes 3 years ago

"Why did you hit the other boy, little Anthy?"

"HE MADE ME DO IT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE INSULTED ME WAAAAAAA"

lol indeed.

33



Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago

Don't be such a cry baby. I'd assumed you were all big boys, guess I was wrong.



Alex Hayes 3 years ago

-

14



Alex Hayes 3 years ago (edited)

Kind of a bad reason to like it, considering that that would stimulate the creation of potentially infinite microdialects. Either way, I'm not going to call it not a language and you can do you ( **COUGH COUGH** ).

7



Anthony McCarthy 3 years ago

Is it actually used for anything by people who aren't conlang geeks?

I believe I said that Logan and Lojban are languages, just that they aren't exactly learner or user friendly and they didn't generate a user base

I consider all languages, natural or other, that are capable of a reasonable level of communication among people are equal.. There is no "best" language though there are lots of bad or, at least, failed conlang projects. Thousands of them.

One of the best things about Esperanto was that it was, from the start, intended a an inter-communications language, not as a replacement for any first language.

Show less

1



Lucille Francois 3 years ago

This is possibly the best comment chain to show off when someone needs an example of linguistic prescriptivism gone horribly wrong. Just cause Esperanto has a larger community than other conlangs doesn't mean it's the best, or the most important. And someone not being fluent in a conlang doesn't mean they can't be critical of them. That's not how criticism works at all. O...



Actually, it's a good example of a bunch of silly people who don't understand that a. languages are meant for communication, b. in conlangs, it's the languages that people choose to learn and use that win. And that monoglots generally don't know what they're talking about, I will include those who take up the play language Toki Pona and believe it can do what it obviously can't

Now, complain how long it's gone on as you add more to it.

Show less



**Alex Hayes** 3 years ago

Objection, the last time someone mentioned the length of the chain was you yourself. "Not as long as people keep it going. If no one had answered me it would have been over three months ago with my first comment." You are the only one left who is actively replying and still directly complaining about how long it's going. Everyone else has moved past that by now.



**You Safar** 3 years ago (edited)

I was thinking a while ago that Anthony is that annoying stoner kid in high school who always went on about how (insert shitty stereotypical drug album here) was the best album ever because of how popular and well known it was, to the extent that they never wanted to listen to anything new, and reduced any new music to a shallow comparison to (insert album). You're ju...



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Well, of you "stoner kid" was over seventy, didn't do drugs or drink, didn't talk about drug albums or ever do anything else like you mentioned, yeah, I can see why you'd think that.

Silly boys, don't you have languages to invent, people to not get to use them?



**sethraptor** 2 years ago

I have a confession to make.

Ever since two months ago, I have been holding Anthony McCarthy at gunpoint and forcing him to respond to any new comments appearing on this thread. I thought it could be the greatest practical joke ever invented, but I have come to regret this decision, as me and Anthony both have now squandered countless hours of our tragically limited lives carrying on an argument that has no relevance to anyone on earth, and is ultimately completely pointless. Anthony ran out of new things to say even before I tracked him down using Facebook and my dad's credit card and put a gun to his head forcing him to respond to every menial and hollow argument with his own empty thoughtless answer. If it were not for someone literally holding a gun to his head, threatening to end his only life on this earth, Antony would have no reason or desire to continue this asinine discussion unless he was completely hopelessly mentally insane, or maybe just terribly lonely. Now that I have returned to my own life and finally let Anthony return to his family





I think we all can take away a valuable lesson from this, which is that you always have the choice to not respond to a youtube comment. As Anthony has pointed out an exhausting number of times in the closest thing to a cry for help that I would allow him to write without blowing his brains out, if nobody had responded to him, he would never have been literally forced at gunpoint to write an almost all the way thought out retort between one and three paragraphs, lest he be killed instantly by a giant gun pointed at his head at all times.

I wish you all good luck in your future endeavors, whatever language, real or invented, they may take place in. Tomorrow I will turn myself in to the authorities.

Goodbye forever  
- Seth Raptor

P.S. Sorry Mitch.  
Show less

👍 133    🗨️    ❤️

**A** Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

Even stupider than most of the other comments here and that's saying something. I've never been on Facebook.

I think Esperantists and other people who are interested in using a language instead of ...

👍    🗨️

**Y** You Safar 2 years ago

it's okay Anthony, you're free! You can stop!

👍 66    🗨️

**A** Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

You're right I am. I wonder how you'd say that in Toki pona and if someone who didn't know what you meant would understand it. My guess is no.

👍    🗨️

**A** Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

Hey, I'd forgotten all about this till I saw the notification that someone had flapped their fingers at me. It amused me to answer it.

Compared to inventing "languages" in ridiculous, unused alphabet projects and ridiculous ...

👍    🗨️

**A** Alex Hayes 2 years ago

Oh my god, it is Stockholm Syndrome! You think this is fun? Jesus Christ, sethraptor, you've completely broken him!

worry, Anthony, professionals are on the way! We can help you!



I don't think you know what "Stockholm Syndrome" means anymore than you know what phenomenology means. Which is an irony when the topic is language though one I'm sure you won't get, probably not knowing what "irony" means, either



jan Misali 2 years ago

great improv skills anthony way to say yes



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy

Shh, shh, it's okay, tell us all about it, you can trust us...



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

Great way to, again, confirm my original comment in this thread.

Admit it, this is the most excitement any of your youtubes has ever caused and you're thrilled by it.



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

But he does have Stockholm Syndrome! Well, on an abstract level. See, sethraptor was his physical captor (Rhyme not intended), but what truly kept him hostage was his task to continue replying to this thread endlessly. Sure, it wasn't as obvious before, with his aggressor making it clear how he would be punished and making it unethical to assume that he didn't want to stop; but now with physical freedom, Anthony is still partaking in and even romanticizing this argument! Just as the traditional Stockholm Syndrome sufferer develops feelings of safety, normalcy, and even love for their assailant, our poor nonconsensual comment warrior has grown to associate this utter torture of discourse with joy and entertainment!

I understand trying to use more accurate labels, and PT+OCD does fit this case pretty well, but the point is that he has deluded himself past self-help. And regardless of the exact wording we use, we're still arguing semantics when we should be helping this man avoid succumbing to complete insanity!

Anthony, I know you're reading this, can you please try to understand that what you're doing is not fun? We need to acknowledge this first before anything else; you have not enjoyed this, are not enjoying this, and will not ever enjoy this. This isn't normal! Please, return to functional society! I am begging you!

Show less



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago (edited)

I can imagine you could translate some lines from really bad Tarzan movies into it. I would like to know why it was invented and what kind of "user base" it has generated and what use they



can imagine in the language, what with no pronouns or verbs. I can imagine trying to express the second person plural or, in fact, any large plural class would get rather involved.

I can assure you I feel no stress, no trauma and no OCD in this. I've left it for weeks at a time before I noticed the little bell in the upper corner of the screen said there were responses to things I'd said. It was an exercise in testing how silly some of Youtube's, um.... "intellectuals" were.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

What does "Stockholm Syndrome on an abstract level" mean?

You get sillier with every comment.



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

But you yourself are one of those silly intellectuals, considering that you're still compulsively replying to every new comment and taking joy in it.

I'm sorry, but I can't really help you unless you admit that you aren't enjoying this. Until then, I'll still be here. I know you can do it!



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

You say as you reply to what I said.

I do have to note that it's really funny how you guys whine about how long this has been going on, making it go on longer to whine about how long it's getting. I think I said something about your projects reminding me of the Society for Putting Things On Top Of Other Things.

I'm finding this mildly amusing, that's as far as it goes at this point.

Show less



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

"Objection, the last time someone mentioned the length of the chain was you yourself. "Not as long as people keep it going. If no one had answered me it would have been over three months ago with my first comment." You are the only one left who is actively replying and still directly complaining about how long it's going. Everyone else has moved past that by now."

-Me, one month ago

"Objection, the last time someone mentioned the length of the chain was you yourself. "Not as long as people keep it going. If no one had answered me it would have been over three months ago with my first comment." You are the only one left who is actively replying and still directly complaining about how long it's going. Everyone else has moved past that by now."



SIGN IN

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I think you've watched too much Perry Mason. Only he was careful to get his facts lined up. I was answering the whiny objection to my answering people who answered me.

I think you have got to be the silliest people other than Alex Jones fans.

**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

Who's Perry Mason and why is he relevant?

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Try google. And if upon finding out who Perry Mason is and don't understand the relevance to your comment, that wouldn't surprise me.

**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

I had actually looked him up before I even made the comment. Again, who is Perry Mason and why is he relevant?

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

It was his use of the word "objection" and I meant it as a joke.

I wonder if someone could get that meaning from your translation if they didn't know what the original sentence said.

I wonder why anyone would attempt to construct such a language except as an experiment in seeing to what extent the most common of grammatical categories are essential to communication.

Show less

**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

So he said objection a lot? So he's basically just Phoenix Wright? Wait, but you're calling him Perry Mason... and it's still irrelevant! Oh my god, your memory is starting to deteriorate! This is horrible; I've never seen somebody fall so deep into Stockholm Syndrome, PTSD, and OCD! We can help you! Please fight it, try to stabilize your consciousness!...

**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

Also why is he relevant?



...any, to the extent...

7



jan Misali 2 years ago

Ramanuj, toki pona has the pretty obvious advantage of being ridiculously easy to learn. even someone who doesn't think it counts as a language can see that.

42

Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago



Any list of 120 words is "ridiculously easy to learn" as compared to a real language, that doesn't mean that list can function as a full language. Even the inventor of Toki Pona didn't claim that it could deal with more than very simple ideas. Well, if you want a good example of what happens when you conduct your affairs on the basis of very simple ideas, look at the United States under Trump. I would love to see someone do a mark up of the "Graham Cassidy" atrocity that is going through the Senate right now on the basis of a language that doesn't even have a means of expressing large numbers, unambiguously without exceeding the limitations of the language.

Your claims for Toki Pona don't match those of the woman who made it.

Show less



jan Misali 2 years ago

see, this guy gets it (also hey anthony what claims are you talking about? so far I've just said that I like it more than I like esperanto)

41



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

That Toki Pona is a real language that can do what Esperanto or any other real language can. It's not a language, it's a game, I'd say that it's the equivalent of pig-latin or ubbi-dubbi but those are, actually, able to communicate ideas because they use standard English.

Anyone who claims that TP is an actual language that can do what a real language can is a silly billy. Not even Sonja Lang would claim that. Or at least she hadn't the last time I bothered to look. As I recall it, the TP facebook page uses mostly English to talk about Toki Pona and it has a couple of thousand "friends" the one that tries to talk in only TP has a few hundred. I'd love to see them discuss something complex and abstract. Or try to.

Show less



jan Misali 2 years ago

"Toki Pona is a language that breaks down advanced ideas to their most basic elements." -Toki Pona: The Language of Good, page 9  
guess Sonja Lang is a silly billy, huh  
side note: "silly billy" is hands down the funniest way you could ever insult someone



It by "most basic elements" in a vocabulary of 120 words means "vague generality" it's accurate. If it is supposed to mean expressing its meaning then, yes, she is a silly billy. If you think "silly billy" is the funniest I can be you should read some of the comments I made above.

...

👍 2 💬



jan Misali 2 years ago

I was making fun of you, ya dingus. calling someone a "silly billy" makes you sound like you're from the twentieth century. oh wait nevermind

👍 67 💬



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

Nobody here is saying that Toki Pona is advanced but you, Anthony. I would say objection but I am too young to know why he's relevant.

(Also, not to rush, it's been far longer than usual. Do you know when we can expect the Zese video?)

👍 21 💬



jan Misali 2 years ago

(9/24/17)

👍 41 💬



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

Again with the "oh you don't know any conlangs that I like so you are unfit to talk on this subject". (Nice.)

👍 14 💬



Memnun 2 years ago

anyone in this thread smoke weed

👍 40 💬



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

Oh, what are you? 12? Apparently the oldest you might be is 17, or didn't you do the math. Maybe you did it with the three numbers available in Toki Pona.

"Dingus" my quick perusal of an online etymological dictionary says that it is a word from the "late 19th century: via Afrikaans from Dutch ding 'thing.'"

Little boys playing intellectual, that's what you guys are

Show less

👍 1 💬



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago



**Phina Ibe** 2 years ago

Jesus fuck, did you make a fool of yourself.

👍 37 🗨️



**jan Misali** 2 years ago

I like the implication that I said dingus to sound like an intellectual

👍 105 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

I hereby arbitrarily decree that a language must be as precise as Ithkuil to be considered sufficient for communication.

Well, would you look at that, my dearest straight-jacket connoisseur, not only is Toki Pona not a language, neither is any naturalistic language. Maybe arbitrary goal posting is a bad idea? But ...

👍 35 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

That is an implication only in your own mind. And that of your fan boys.

👍 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Well, good luck with that.

👍 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

""Dingus" my quick perusal of an online etymological dictionary says that it is a word from the "late 19th century: via Afrikaans from Dutch ding 'thing.'"

Little boys playing intellectual, that's what you guys are"

-Literally you, not even a day ago

The implication may not have been intended, but it is right there in your fucking words. Jesus Christ, are you losing your eyesight along with your sanity?

Show less

👍 26 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I said "playing" not "succeeding in being" or is that too complex and subtle for your minds honed to a blunt and non-incisive obtuseness by TP?

👍 1 🗨️



**jan Misali** 2 years ago

said "sound like"! wow, clarifying is fun





What the actual fuck? That was probably the most pretentious word choice I've ever seen. "Blunt" and "non-incisive obtuseness" mean the same thing; you just expended two more words consisting of 22 characters not including the spaces and "and" without contributing to the overall information of the sentence. Why? Why in the hell would you do that? Why wouldn't you just say "for your blunt minds limited by TP"? That's like 30 fewer characters and gives the same information. Is it to add emphasis? Is it to sound like a legal document? If the former, you're adding emphasis to what is already an ad hominem, so said emphasis is repetitive and unneeded. If the latter, then there's no way to deny that it's pretentious. Is there another reason? This seriously makes no sense.

Show less

👍 31 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

If you like it I'm surprised you don't try to get better at it. "Sound like" doesn't get close to it.

I can come up with as many insults as you'd like to provoke but it's really not that interesting a use of my time.

👍 2 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

What is an interesting use of your time? Surely this isn't?

👍 21 🗨️



**jan Misali** 2 years ago (edited)

ok anthony you want a better clarification? here's exactly what happened:

- 1) you called me a silly billy
- 2) I said that was a funny way to insult someone, because it's really pathetic
- 3) you thought my comment was complimenting your wit or whatever
- 4) I called you a dingus
- 5) you called me and alex silly boys playing intellectual
- 6) I pointed out that your phrasing made it sound kinda like you thought "dingus" was the sort of thing a fake intellectual would say
- 7) you clarified that that was not your original intention
- 8) alex restated that it really sounded like that's what you were saying
- 9) you thought they were saying that I succeeded in sounding like an intellectual by saying "dingus"? I guess?

I'm not actually sure what you meant by that particular comment but I think I've clarified my side of this conversation. please let me know if there's anything else you're confused about.

Show less

👍 59 🗨️



**jan Misali** 2 years ago

oh also somewhere in there you implied that I would forget what century I grew up in AND that knowing how long ago the year 2000 was counts as doing math



SIGN IN

There's a common English phrase for what you're doing, "grasping at straws". How do you say that in Toki Pona?

I have to say, I've seldom been so discouraged with the products of the recent decades in education as this discussion has left me.

Esperantists, even Idoists should ignore the current "conlang" scene because it has just gotten too silly.

Show less

4



jan Misali 2 years ago

if Esperanto has an idiom with the same meaning as "grasping at straws" I'm very impressed. also what the entire heck are you talking about

53



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

While you could say it any number of ways in Esperanto, the common one is *alrocxo sin al -ero*. I confirmed that in Peter Benson's Comprehensive English Esperanto Dictionary.

And if you don't understand what I said, I'm a lot less surprised at that than I was the first time I...



jan Misali 2 years ago

hey anthony I understand WHAT you're saying I just have no idea why you're saying it. what point are you trying to get across? I get that you think toki pona isn't a real language because it's too good at being simple, but are you also saying that esperantists, who arguably make up the majority of the modern conlang community, aren't a part of the modern conlang community? are you saying esperanto, by far the most popular constructed language, doesn't count as a constructed language because it's just so much better than all the other ones? or maybe you're saying that esperantists just don't like making their own conlangs, because they all agree with you that since esperanto nailed it there isn't a point in making any more? you certainly have written several thousand words in this thread, and I've read all of them, and I'm no closer to understanding your viewpoint than I was when you called me a fraud for not mentioning esperanto radio shows in a video about ido. didn't you say you were a teacher? as in, a person who professionally explains things to people who don't know about them? please, teach me. I am but a foolish teen, after all.

Show less

60



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

No, it's just the only constructed language project that has worked to attract a substantial user base and to persist for a hundred thirty years. It never had to be 'perfect' or 'flawless' it just had



SIGN IN



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

In language terms, a couple million people is not substantial. If all Esperantists lived in the US, they would be near 1% of the population. As it stands, less than 0.01% of the world speaks Esperanto. If we trust Wikipedia's "List of languages by number of native speakers" page, then Konkani, the 100th biggest language, has more native speakers than Esperanto has fluent (not necessarily native) speakers, ranking at 0.11% of the world. The only advantage Esperanto has is that it is known on the internet.

Sources:

<http://www.esperanto.net/veb/faq-5.html>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_languages\\_by\\_number\\_of\\_native\\_speakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_number_of_native_speakers)
<http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/us-population/>
<http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

I know that none of these are concrete, but even taking these purely as estimates, Esperanto is generally less spoken than a language in India that I didn't even know about until now.

Did it persist? Yes. Is it more popular than Mormonism, which is older by another half century?

No. Is it influential? Counter question, are any internet fads truly influential?

Show less



24



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

It's a lot more substantial than 100 users and none of your non-fulfilled schemes are even going to get two users. And those users come from many different countries which is the whole point of having a constructed language such as Esperanto. The use of Esperanto was always meant as a secondary language of intercommunication between people who didn't share a common ...



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

Did I call any other conlangs substantial? No, I did not. Conlanging as a whole is **not** substantial as of right now and very likely will never be. The highest quality broken wrench is still a broken wrench; being relatively popular and influential means nothing outside of our little-known hobby. There are Esperantists worldwide? Wow, that fixes everything! Now there is perfect communication across all borders, never mind that very few of people can talk to each other internationally and are likely in the same demographic, you know, since they have to know what

an auxlang is or be raised by someone who does in order to at the very least know Esperanto exists. Never mind that only conlangers and language enthusiasts can talk to other conlangers and language enthusiasts in other countries using Esperanto. Never mind that language enthusiasts tend to already be multilingual. It all doesn't matter because wow, how fucking amazing, a minority of people in one country can talk to an identical fucking minority in another. This excuses literally everything.

And you know, fuck those Konkani for speaking a language in a different family, it's their fault for speaking an Indic language instead of a Romance, Germanic, Slavic, or otherwise European language. How dare they have a vocabulary that does not correspond to Esperanto's? This is an international language, and that apparently means that it retains vocabulary and grammar from the only languages that matter: ones within a short boat or train ride from Poland. That's

ational enough for the average auxlang enthusiast, so the rest of the world just needs to



SIGN IN

international.

"To compare Esperanto to a national or regional language is to not get the point, at all."

Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot that Esperanto isn't actually a language, I'm sorry for comparing it to languages, it's obviously in its own untouchable category. Just because it has words and a grammar doesn't mean it's a real language, therefore we are not allowed to treat it like a natural language, even if people consider it a "living language". It is simply a word game between European polyglots, except that it's not even a fun word game like the literally demonic Toki Pona.

There, are you happy now? To escape criticism, your language is now in the same category as Toki Pona, which is something that you don't take seriously in the slightest. Is that what you wanted?

Show less

👍 31 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Many Esperantists don't have a European language as their first language. There are substantial numbers of users in China and Japan, including some of its most significant authors.

Konkani is an Indo-European language, it is grammatically similar to Sanskritic languages. There are more than a few Esperantists in India, as well.

You guys should get together and invent Sillibillian. Use the Shavian alphabet, which I bet none of you can actually read, not even English written in it.

Show less

👍 1 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

That is the most in-depth deconstruction I've seen of any argument on all of YouTube.

Congratulations. I'm going to sit back and see if anyone else comes in and makes this less stale.

👍 22 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Oh, for crying out loud. You guys say stupid stuff, I notice the little bell in the corner of Youtube is red, I knock it down. None of it is hard.

👍 1 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

Do you want an award? You sound like you do.

👍 27 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I can conceive of no honor that you boys could come up with that I'd want.

👍 3 🗨️



SIGN IN

28

**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

Strike Esozzocn

I highly recommend that you read the entirety of the thread. Sarkar is right; it is beautiful.

19

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

What does it do? I mean, what does it really do, not what do people claim that it does. I would be curious to know what Sonja Lang does with it, though I don't seem to be able to find that out. I have read that when she translated part of the Taoist literature it was into Esperanto, not Toki Pona, though perhaps that's old information.

**jan Misali** 2 years ago

the most important thing toki pona achieves, imo, is learnability. additionally, the tiny vocabulary makes it so that in order to say most things, you need to define what they are. this is admittedly less convenient than the traditional "just have a word for everything" approach, but it makes it so that you can't talk about anything in toki pona if you don't understand what it is. this might not ...

43

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Why not reduce the vocabulary to 60 words, then? If you already understand what's being said why say it? What you are saying in this shows what I originally said, that your conception of conlangs is just plain silly.

**jan Misali** 2 years ago

no, see, it's not that the LISTENER can only understand what they already understood; it's that the SPEAKER can only say what they understand. for example, you can't say "radio" if you were born in 1998 and don't know what a radio is sorry, but if someone says "ilo pi pali kalama kepeken sona walo", even if you personally don't know what a radio is, you can figure out that ...

42

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I know people who were born after 1998 who aren't so stupid they don't know what a radio is. I can't account for why you wouldn't have. Maybe you don't have a very big vocabulary in English.

Can you get any sillier?

2

**jan Misali** 2 years ago

.. a callback you goof



something like "nasin sona sijelo" I guess? I don't think I've ever said the word phenomenology in english so to be completely honest the answer is that I wouldn't say it

👍 38 🗨️



jan Misali 2 years ago

I'm sorry for not responding to your questions it's just that anthony was out here saying much funnier things

👍 45 🗨️



jan Misali 2 years ago

yeah sure go for it

👍 28 🗨️



Mcguy215 / Concrete Castles 🎵 2 years ago

holy crap, Anthony is still replying? It is so embarrassing for him, I would delete the comment after FO translated moby dick, but the thread continued!

👍 16 🗨️



Mcguy215 / Concrete Castles 🎵 2 years ago

also TWO THIRDS of comments on this video are on this comment...

👍 17 🗨️



Phina Ibe 2 years ago

**JUST DELETE THIS COMMENT ALREADY, YOU DUD!**

👍 1 🗨️



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

Actually no, please don't. This should be a national monument or something.

👍 49 🗨️



Phina Ibe 2 years ago

Alex Hayes Look what Mcguy said, this comment contains 2/3 of the Comments on this vid.

👍 3 🗨️



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

How odd, I don't feel embarrassed at all. Where's the translation of Moby Dick? Do you mean the "translation" of the first chapter of Gerda Malaperis which I pointed out was no translation at all but a vague indication, something in line with Woody Allen's joke about speed reading, "reading" War and Peace in 20 minutes, "It's about Russia".

Obviously you don't know anything about toki pona, even less than the silly people here who do a tiny bit about it.



real language capable of doing complex communication when its inventor said that was not her purpose and she designed the language to not be able to do that.

Let's hear your championing of the Shavian alphabet. I could use a laugh.

Show less



**Phina Ibe** 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy I can't believe that Misali hasn't blocked you yet.



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Why? Because he's gotten lots of comments on one of his videos? Surely a desideratum of any vlogger. If he did it wouldn't bother me in any way,.



**jan Misali** 2 years ago

"vlogger"?



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I'll have to admit I didn't take much time with that comment. "Poseur" more to your liking?



**jan Misali** 2 years ago

hey anthony, I suppose you think that's cute



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Oh, does that impress you? Among the people I know it's just another word. French is my first second language, I use it just about every day. I grew up among French Canadians from Quebec and Arcadie. So I know what it's like to learn a real second language, not a play one.



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Geesh, thin skinned, much?



**chromaticiT** 2 years ago

mr. mccarthy is that you







1) toki pona doesn't count as a language because there isn't a significant body of works written in it  
 2) esperanto is like, really good  
 3) people who use fancy words are smarter than people who try to make themselves understood  
 4) this comment thread has gone on for too long but if it certainly isn't YOUR fault  
 5) I don't speak esperanto which means I'm a faker of some sort  
 as I'm sure you know, I disagree with basically all of those points. however, you haven't really done that good of a job communicating your stance, so I'm certain I've misinterpreted your views in some way. if we ever wanna have a meaningful discussion, which we might not wanna do because throwing ridiculously mild insults back and forth is much more fun, it would be best if you go ahead and clarify how much of this is actually what you're trying to say.

Show less

👍 56 🗨️



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

OK, - T. P. isn't a real language because it can't function as a real language does, express a vast range of ideas to other people who don't already know those ideas, communicate needs, desires, etc. with the same level of specificity and accuracy that real languages do.

- Esperanto can do that as by the way, Ido can too. So can most natural languages, especially those which have or can adopt vocabulary to cover things not already part of that language, T P, stuck at a corpus of 120 words, can't do that. The number of works written in the language is immaterial to it being a real language, though it can make learning it more rewarding  
 - I'm not the one who brought terms like "phenomenology" or "Shavian" or many others into this. I don't have any problem with people who can communicate ideas accurately and effectively with a smaller vocabulary, In Esperanto I favor the same approach that Claude Piron did, which favors the use of a smaller vocabulary for maximum clarity, but one big enough to do that. However, I don't see any reason to not use a word if it's part of a language.  
 - I'm not the one who has been whining about the length of this discussion. - I don't think you know what you're talking about, sometimes, though there are others in this discussion who really don't know what they're talking about. It's good to know things. Better than not knowing them. Language can be useful for that if it can express ideas clearly. It's not just some kind of game or hobby, there are important things to do.

Show less

👍 6 🗨️



**jan Misali** 2 years ago

thank you! see, now I understand you much better and can actually talk about where we disagree.

- "it can't... express a vast range of ideas to other people who don't already know those ideas" I'd actually argue that the opposite is true! it's specifically impossible to talk about anything WITHOUT explaining what it is to whoever you're talking to.  
 - yes, toki pona only has 120 words. that doesn't mean that there's only 120 things you can say. just like in esperanto, words can be combined together in regular ways to form new ideas; it's just done through word order rather than through affixes.



pretty clearly saying that you don't think it's your fault that the thread is so long, but the fact that you're even blaming anyone about it means that you, on some level, wish it hadn't lasted as long as it has

- ok I know that that last point is in response to my last point but it's still the most confusing part of your argument. the closest thing to like an actual insult you've said about me is calling me a fake... something? like you've called me a fraud and a poser (sorry, "poseur") but what exactly am I pretending to be? a linguistics educator? I specifically call conlang critic a "show that gets

facts wrong" so that can't be it. a polyglot? I've avoided answering the "how many languages do you speak" question mostly because, as is pretty clear, the answer depends on what counts as a language and on what counts as speaking. but importantly I've never claimed to speak any languages other than english and toki pona, the two languages I'm most confident in. I do, in fact, have passing familiarity with several languages, conlangs especially, but I've never been in an environment where speaking a language other than english was necessary, or even a viable option. no, I couldn't live in what I know of german, not because I don't know how to speak german (I did study it for years, after all) but because literally nobody who lives where I live speaks german so using german just wouldn't be practical.

- oops there's a subpoint to your last point! are you trying to say that having fun with languages isn't allowed? like anyone who enjoys linguistics or conlanging just should stop? I sure hope that's not what you're trying to say because wow that sounds like the most boring thing you could possibly care about. oh no people are having too much fun! the horror! idk maybe I'm reading to far into things

Show less

👍 50 🗨️



jan Misali 2 years ago

probably not, since I've only had experience with the language in an academic context

👍 17 🗨️



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

Who said that having fun with language isn't allowed, I didn't. I said there was more to it than playing games and having a hobby of inventing "languages" and talking about languages that you have not and never will get around to inventing.

Toki Pona cannot express a full range of ideas. How would you say, "the square root of fifty seven" in Toki Pona? How would you say "pi times the radius of a circle squared"? How would you say "all people are created equal and have an equal right to the due process of the law?" I will bet you that just about any joke you can laugh at in English can't be translated into it so that you could get a laugh out of another TP user.

The creator of the language certainly didn't assert that her invention could be used to express all ideas that can be expressed in natural language, she said you could only use it talk about very simple things, that is unless she lost her mind and started making claims of that sort.

I think my original comment on this video is more true than I did when I made it.



SIGN IN



jan sonja · 2 years ago

ok so you were talking about one specific type of fun. that's... better?

no, toki pona can't talk about math. that's not what it was designed for, and if you want to talk about math, toki pona is not the language to do it in. it also won't be able to translate humor, but humor is pretty untranslatable in general. most of the jokes I'd laugh at are puns, and english puns won't work in tp and tp puns won't work in english. that's just how jokes work! however you did give a specific example which I am now obligated to translate:

original: "all people are created equal and have an equal right to the due process of the law."

translated: "jan ale li sama li jo e ken sama pi pali lipu lawa."

back translated: "every person is equal and has the same abilities with regards to the law's (literally "controlling document") actions."

this doesn't capture all the nuance of the original statement, but you can't deny that it gets the idea across. oh and as a cool bonus it actually is more efficient to say that than the english phrase! neat.

I've already quoted jan sonja saying that it was designed to be able to express anything USING simple ideas. like just scroll up the quote is right there. the point is that it's possible to say anything by breaking it down to the simple ideas that it's made of.

ok uh, your original comment? are we talking about the same comment here? the one that goes, ahem,

"You have got to be about the most superficial commentator on con-languages since the idiotic B. Gilson.

Did I miss the one where you said which conlang you're fluent in and read at least three times a week and can read new books in every week of even one year or listen to radio shows in every week? New radio shows?"

the one where you follow up a mostly legitimate criticism of my videos (I don't go nearly as deep as a should and most of the stuff I talk about is super basic) by misspelling a word that's in the title of the video the comment was left on then insulting some guy I had no reason to have heard of before? (he does an esperanto podcast I think?)

I just wanna make sure we're both talking about the comment where you have a paragraph break after one sentence and then proceed to show that you did, in fact, miss the one where I said which conlang I'm fluent in (episode twelve) and then go on to list some things that basically only apply to esperanto, (literally the only conlang where new books are published in it weekly) and then wrap the whole thing up with three entire spaces in a row and the assertion that radio shows are something literally anyone in the year 2017 cares about?



mention esperanto radio shows in a video that isn't about esperanto. this was the comment that prompted me to point out how radios aren't a thing anyone my age (I'm 19 years old!) cares about which for some reason prompted you to say literally the funniest thing anyone has ever said to me.

anthony, this is the comment I scroll past every time I reply to a comment in this thread and I've read it so many times it's imprinted in my brain. its exact cadence has impacted my speech irreversibly. this is the comment that started a thread that inspired me to make a dumb homestuck joke remix and post it on my channel for thousands of actual people to see and be confused by.

so, maybe you still do think I'm about the most superficial commentator on con-languages since the idiotic B. Gilson, and maybe you did miss the one where I said which conlang I'm fluent in and read at least three times a week and can read new books in every week of even one year or listen to radio shows in every week new radio shows. anthony, I suppose you think that's the truth. what it makes you is a fraud.

Show less

👍 55 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

Akira was some random libertarian that started spamming about how the left is bad or something. I don't remember anymore, and I'm not rereading all of these 400 comments to find out by context.

👍 11 🗨️



**Cax Attacks** 2 years ago (edited)

Conlang Critic I bet you can't even translate everything ever written into toki pona. I bet you can't communicate with foxes in toki pona. Only real languages can communicate with foxes. Have foxes read Moby Dick? Only real languages have read Moby Dick.

Foxes are serious business and only they can communicate in the UN.

Foxes aren't very good at math though so I guess they're not a real language either.

Show less

👍 89 🗨️ ❤️



**Errorite** 2 years ago

Just joining in on this glorious piece of history.  
A bit late tho...

👍 25 🗨️



**Alex Hayes** 2 years ago

It's already been half a year; there is no end in sight. Long live the thread!





stupid when the person making believe they did was the only one saying it" - but there really needs to be one because it's one of the most common means of mischaracterizing what was said online. That wasn't done nearly as often in print. I don't know if that's because there are s...



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I am, though, confident you couldn't say that in Toki Pona.



**Cax Attacks** 2 years ago

I mean you didn't express the concept of "someone making believe someone said something really stupid when the person making believe they did was the only one saying it" well in english either so I guess it's a fake language that has no value and is just a game too. Also I like how you imply that the set of people who use the internet and the set of people who read books is a vastly different set and has no significant overlap. I like how you imply that books are the only kind of valid written literature.

The other thing that I can't seem to fathom is why you feel that in order to like Esperanto, you have to put down all other conlangs. There's plenty of conlangs out there that are great. Toki Pona is cool and has an interesting concept. Some conlangs exist for artistic purposes or to push the boundaries of what it is to be a language. Some exist to facilitate story telling and world building. Some exist to try to find new ways to communicate with many people.

The fact that Esperanto has native speakers does not mean it is more valid than others. The fact that it has enough users that it has books written in it semi-consistently doesn't make it more valid. Popularity does not equal ease of communication or how good something is. English is used by many many people, but that doesn't mean it's the best language and that others aren't valid.

It's okay to feel a bit sad that other people don't like a thing you love, but that doesn't make it

okay to try to invalidate other people's opinions or the things that they like. I'm sorry you feel bad, please don't be afraid to ask for help from people you care about and who care about you.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

The only criticisms I made of Ido was that that it hasn't established a stable form and it hasn't attracted a large, continuing number of users. The only criticisms I made of loglan-logban were that it wasn't user friendly and that it was based on a bogus linguistics theory from the 1930s that just about no real linguists ever bought or believe in now. Novial, I only pointed out that Gilson's project to "perfect" it began and died c. 1998. My criticisms of Toki Pona are many and I stated all of them many times. Of those only TP is defined in a way that means it will never and never be a real language on the same level as a natural language or a real invented



SIGN IN

that as a criterion of why it is what no other of the languages under discussion is, an actual language of at least every week, if not everyday use of many, many people in many, many countries.

People have every right to hold their opinions and other people have a right to criticize those opinions on the basis of their coherence, their fidelity to facts and logic and reality. If someones opinions can't stand up to that then their attachments to their opinion aren't based on coherence, fidelity to facts, logic or reality. There's a lot of that going around online. It's what destroyed American democracy.

Show less



**Cax Attacks** 2 years ago

See the thing is, though, that Toki Pona does exactly what it's set out to do and is still a real language. Since there seems to be a definition issue, could you please create a list of requirements to be a language? I'm really curious as to how you would define a "real" language

Also if you want to get into political talk, if you think that the internet is the reason that American Democracy isn't functioning then you're just plain wrong. It's been fucked up since its creation and only ever barely functioned.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

A real language has to enable the people using it to conduct their everyday life and fulfill their reasonable requirements for communication or it is not a real language, it is an inadequate code or a game.

What the inventor of Toki Pona intended it to do was to communicate "very simple" ideas. If you want to conduct your life on the level that Toki Pona would enable you to other people would be entirely justified in thinking you were simple minded. The same would be true if you tried to conduct your life with 120 words of English or French or Esperanto (though about 1200 would serve you extremely well due to its word creation capability) or any other language. Basic English with its vocabulary of about seven times the size of Toki Pona doesn't work very well but it might just barely count as a real language, Special English from Voice of America is notably more successful though I wouldn't want to have to limit myself to it.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

I didn't blame the internet for the problem that has led to the downfall of American Democracy but to the dumbing down and lack of integrity that is merely exposed by the internet. See, that's the kind of subtle distinction that was contained in my comment:

...



SIGN IN



jan 1980 2 years ago

hi anthony! it's great hearing from you again. I have a few things to say in response to your points:

- "someone making believe someone said something really stupid when the person making believe they did was the only one saying it" is called "projecting". in toki pona, I'd call it something like "toki nasa", which isn't as precise as the exact english definition, but it sure is easier to say, and speaking precisely isn't the point of toki pona. why should you expect it to be able to perfectly and conveniently translate a concept you didn't even know the english word for?
- you don't like Ido because it failed to be popular? that's a pretty boring reason to dislike something.
- your definition of "real language" excludes classical greek! wow
- you sure don't know what toki pona is trying to do, huh? it's not trying to make it so you can only say simple things, it's trying to encourage you to explain complicated concepts. the only limits are your own understanding of what you're talking about, and the amount of detail you're willing to go into. direct quote from sonja lang: "Toki Pona offers a path for semantic reduction. Just as we can rewrite a mathematical fraction like  $\frac{4}{8}$  as  $\frac{1}{2}$ , we can distill our thoughts to their most fundamental units to discover what things really mean. We can understand complex ideas in terms of their smaller parts." (that's from page 10 of Toki Pona: The Language of Good)
- "It's going around online but it comes from a more general dumbing down of American thought, and that comes mostly from TV, movies, radio, video games, etc. But people who have been so dumbed down often can type out nonsense online." I don't understand what this means. as a tokiponist, which means I'm just a huge idiot who doesn't even read books probably, it's too subtle for me.

Show less

38



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

Where did I say I didn't "like" Ido? I didn't express any dislike of Ido, which I learned enough so I can read it. I'll bet I can read it better than you can.

Classical Greeks and many others were quite able to conduct their day to day lives, not to mention communicate quite well in the language. Try translating Sophocles, Euripides, Plato or any of the other, many texts written into it into Toki Pona, I'm sure we could all use another laugh, at this point. If it had the vocabulary added to it to enable it to deal with the modern world, classical Greek could function as a fully adequate language.

How would Sonja Lang propose saying " $\frac{4}{8}$  is equal to the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in Toki Pona?

What's not to get about that question within the statement that if that is the case then it wouldn't surprise me.

There's some reason your claims don't cohere, at times and some reason you can't seem to understand when that's pointed out to you. Maybe you should listen to the radio more, it's more work than TV and movies, good mental exercise.





SIGN IN



jan misali 2 years ago

ah yes let's argue about which things you literally said and which things you simply implied that's deffo a good use of our time.

can you order coffee in classical greek? if you can't order coffee in it, it's of no use to me. maybe if it had a few thousand more words, it would be functional enough to be a Real language, but actually it's only a game.

"nanpa ni en nanpa ni li sama."

"What's not to get about that question within the statement that if that is the case then it wouldn't surprise me." asfdhfkjalhdfdgfhadjkfldhsfjhghjkfdglaf;gafhfsfg

hey anthony what the entire heck is a radio? where can I find such a device?

Show less

47



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

I nowhere implied that there was any problems with Ido apart from the two that I mentioned, the failure of the language to settle into a standard form and to attract a large body of users.

Compared to Esperanto it is more of a series of closely related dialects of the parent language. I've thought it could be useful in Esperanto literature in rendering dialects.

Well, if the language were supplied the vocabulary to order coffee, I'm quite sure it could be.

People bought and sold things in the language, I would imagine including food and drink. You know, language man, that classical Greek turned into modern Greek, so that happened. I can assure you, you can order coffee in modern Greek.

Maybe you should try googling "radio". Do I have to tell you what google is? Your radio humor is about as witty as Donald Trump's.

Show less



jan Misali 2 years ago

okay, so yes, you're presenting ido's unpopularity as a reason to dislike it. you're not using the word "like" because that would be too Subjective, but that is what you're saying.

I'm not talking about modern greek, or a hypothetical version of classical greek that had modern vocabulary. I'm talking about classical greek, as it existed in ancient greece. that language isn't useful for communicating in modern times without adding a significant amount of vocabulary, and yet there's no reason not to call it a real language.

okay so I'm going to stop this "I'm too young to know what a radio is" goof because you're right it's no longer funny. here's my actual response: you think it's hard to listen to radio? like, seriously? listening to the radio is "work"? I don't think I actually own a physical radio, but I spend a huge amount of my spare time listening to podcasts (that's what replaced radio shows now that the radio is obsolete!) and it's a far more passive than watching tv. it's an audio medium instead of an audiovisual medium, after all. you only need to be paying attention with one of your senses instead of two.

Show less



SIGN IN

presented "unpopularity" as a reason to dislike it is as absurd if not dishonest. So your reasoning, as well as words, fails you.

English c. 1950 wouldn't suffice to discuss the full range of current purchasing possibilities today. Are you claiming that means there's something wrong with the language in 1950 to conduct life in 1950 or that English in 2017 is a different language? I believe way back when one of your fan boys was trying to bring up other languages I noted that if they had gained the vocabulary to deal with modern technology and other things any of them could, theoretically, function as well as any other. I haven't made any qualitative judgements of natural languages or languages with sufficient vocabulary and linguistic resources to function in real life. If all of us knew !Xoo and it had been supplied with an expanded vocabulary as English or German or Mandarin or Arabic had, it would work as well as any other. Though it has phonemic and other features that make it almost impossible for anyone but the most devoted specialist in the study of it to learn as a quickly acquired, easily used second language. Those are things that Zamenhof took into account when he invented Esperanto, giving it features that make it easy to learn and use with total confidence - I mentioned that before, too. Not all "conlang" inventors did that. Interlingua keeps such absurdities as different conjugations of verbs. Loglan hasn't proven to be either learner or user friendly, either, even its inventors and early enthusiasts report having not gained full fluency in it.

Your memory seems to fail you as well, you're the one who pretended to not know what a radio was when I noted that unlike other conlangs that there were enough Esperanto users for a number of radio services to have programming in Esperanto. That was your attempt at a lame joke, not mine.

As to radio being a medium that requires the active use of the mind, more so than TV or video, I guess you don't know that because of your repeatedly asserted ignorance of radio. As someone who listens to radio services in several languages, including Esperanto, you'll have to defer to my experience until you gain that experience. Maybe you'd enjoy listening to audio drama as a bridge, the Lime Town series is a way for you to do both a the pod-cast is in the form of a radio documentary to tell a sort of sci-fi mystery tale.

Show less



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

The question isn't necessarily if scientists are writing papers in a language, it is if they could write them in it.

I would like to know who leads a life simple enough so that 120 words which includes, if I recall, exactly three numbers in it. I doubt that anyone who can be said to be fluent in T.P. can give any kind of nuanced information to other fluent T.P. users if they don't already know what is being said to them. As I said, it's like the old Woody Allen joke about speed reading War and Peace in 20 minutes, "It's about Russia".

Esperanto was never meant to "take over the world" it was always intended to be a second age of inter-communication among people who didn't share another language. I think it



experience, an important aspect of its suitability for that. It isn't the only invented language that could do that, Ido could, if it could achieve a stable form, though for literary purposes the added flexibility of Esperanto is an added feature to attract learners and users.

Show less



jan Misali 2 years ago

wait, so you're saying !xoo isn't a real language either? man, your definition of "language" sure needs some extending.

I don't know what about "I'm going to stop this "I'm too young to know what a radio is" goof because you're right it's no longer funny" made it sound like I thought it was your joke? was it something in the phrasing that I didn't catch, or did you just not read it properly? I'm going to be nice and assume it was something in the phrasing, because you're very smart and read all the

time.

have you ever listened to the adventure zone? it's my favorite podcast. (sorry, "pod-cast") if it were played on a radio for some reason, there'd be no reason not to call it a "radio drama". the first story is about eighty hours long and I was laughing and or crying the whole way through. my mind certainly was engaged, but you know what wasn't engaged? my eyes! I wasn't looking at anything! I'd say that's a more passive experience than watching a tv show of the same length, both of which are more passive than playing a video game of the same length. man, I'd love to start actually talking about different types of media and their relative engagement levels. can we start actually talking about different types of media and their relative engagement levels? that seems like it'd be a much more productive discussion than "is this language real".

Show less



Anthony McCarthy 2 years ago

I didn't say anything about !Xoo that could possibly lead to someone honestly concluding I'd said it isn't a real language. Obviously the language does and has worked to serve the people who can use it with other speakers of !Xoo in their daily life and their communications and with either the adoption or creation of neologisms providing it with words as needed, it could deal with anything English or Mandarin or Japanese could. It already has more than 120 words and isn't restricted to the limited vocabulary that Toki Pona does. It isn't, however, easy for people to learn as a second language so its not a good candidate for an inter-language or a lingua franca. From what I've read about !Xoo it is quite capable of expressing deep nuance.

I haven't listened to Adventure Zone. I have listened to Lime Town and it's very good. I'm an enormous fan of audio theater, especially the past product of the CBC which, unfortunately, doesn't produce it anymore. It's the real theater of imagination and new ideas because, as Rod Serling noted, it's cheap enough for an author to do different stuff in. I also like Jack Black Justice, though that's more of a comedy.

There are a number of new plays produced every month for radio by the BBC, RTE, radio in New Zealand and Australia as well a independent audio theater producers. I don't know why anyone



SIGN IN

**Hans Lee** 2 years ago

Here is my attempt to simply rebut Anthony's points:

1. You say that you cannot talk about math in Toki Pona. However, an average person seldom talks about elaborated maths in everyday communication. This puts mathematics out of Toki Pona's goal, but this fact in no way makes TP less valid of a language.
2. You argue that TP is incapable of translating literature, and you even gave examples for us. TP is a language made to communicate simply and clearly. As I quote from Jan Misali, "it is impossible to talk about things WITHOUT EXPLAINING". TP cannot translate literature easily, because it is not made for it. TP is a language for people around the globe to learn it easily, and get points across when talking to others. There is no advanced vocabulary, making explanation obligatory. This in turn makes it possible for everyone to understand what you say. TP is simple, and it's meant to be.

Show less

👍 21 🗨️

**Hans Lee** 2 years ago

Ramanuj Sarkar I suppose the creators have gone too far with simplifying the number system. But for my other point, TP aims for simple communication, and what you said has not convinced people that TP is not a good language in that aspect.

👍 9 🗨️

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Oh, dear, watch what you say about that, bunky, hubris has such a way of catching up with people. I might outlive you. You might understand that if you read stuff.

👍 1 🗨️

**Nathan Pacifism** 2 years ago

Also fun fact! There has been over 207,384 letters in this shit storm of a youtube comment string

👍 24 🗨️

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago (edited)

Oh, you silly boy, if you wanted me to stop toying with you, that's about the stupidest way to get me to do it.

👍 3 🗨️

**Nathan Pacifism** 2 years ago

LOL, stop toying with me? Do you not see how much of a fucking time waste your comments are? And you think im annoyed or something even tho i just posted a comment?

👍 25 🗨️

**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Oh well, if that's what you think, just think of how much more of "a fucking waste of time" your



2



**Nathan Pacifism** 2 years ago (edited)

Yes, this was a big fucking waste of my time trying to talk to person like you. But i still find it funny that you have been writing comments for over 7 months now and you think that im the person wasting there time :D

23



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Ooh, and guess what, you just wasted some more of it. Apparently you have more time to waste than you want to believe you do.

1



**Nathan Pacifism** 2 years ago (edited)

You still don't understand you have wasted over 6 months of time writing on youtube comments? And so what if i waste 30 sec writing a youtube comment. Anyways im done commenting here since you are so stubborn and think that you know better then EVERYONE that you have been arguing for over 6 months about a fucking language

23



**Anthony McCarthy** 2 years ago

Oh, I guess I must type faster than you do. Or think faster because I doubt I've spent two hours

writing these comments, I'd be surprised if it took me a hour and a half, most of that time looking up stupid stuff that you conlang rangers brought up like the Shavian alphabet and to check on the date of the death of Edmund Husserl. ...

1



**dog** 2 years ago

Talk about a following, this Rick and Morty fan over here be showing off with his radio shows in Esperanto. Oooo. Remember, its not a real language if it doesn't have tssissciiiii.

36



**Aj Rollo** 2 years ago (edited)

I don't know why I have done this, but I've actually spent the last while translating "Moby Dick" into Toki Pona. My first draft is here - <http://bit.ly/1e1EYJv> - any comments or criticisms are quite welcome.

47



**WanderingRandomer** 2 years ago

Hi guys, I'm new to the party.

This really has been a fascinating read, so much so that I felt compelled to comment (although, I can't say I relish the idea of this thread pinging my notifications for the foreseeable future but never mind).



SIGN IN

intellect with petty retorts and smug arrogance. DO carry on!

Show less

👍 37 🗨️



**Square Zack** 2 years ago

What does "commentator" even mean?

👍 🗨️



**Lyrion Rae** 2 years ago

Wow. This thread lasted longer than I thought it would. The last time I was here was like from 5 months ago.

👍 9 🗨️



**Lyrion Rae** 2 years ago

I was expecting more but.... meh.

👍 4 🗨️



**Federico Volpe** 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy Sir, you're completely right!

👍 1 🗨️



**Luna Hoshi** 2 years ago

I think this thread is absolutely idiotic. Not just on Anthony's part (even though it's mostly him), but on everyone. You have spent the past 6 months or so arguing about Esperanto and toki pona. I'm not saying that Anthony McCarthy was right in any way, I'm just pointing out that this is stupid....

👍 13 🗨️



**Alowishus Devadander Abercrombie** 2 years ago

I bet you watch Rick and Morty

👍 8 🗨️



**おらushankaboiおら** 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy To be fair, you have to have a very high IQ to understand Esperanto. The grammar is extremely subtle, and without a solid grasp of academic linguistics most of the history will go over a typical learner's head. There's also Zamenhof's hopeful outlook, which is deftly woven into his characterisation - his name literally meaning "one who hopes", for instance. The fans understand this stuff; they have the intellectual capacity to truly appreciate the depths of the language, to realize that it's not just good- it says something deep about LIFE. As a consequence people who dislike Esperanto truly ARE idiots- of course they wouldn't appreciate, for instance, the humour in Zamenhof's existential catchphrase "Saluton" which itself is a cryptic reference the polarising issue of Eurocentrism. I'm smirking right now just imagining one of those addlebrained simpletons scratching their heads in confusion as Zamenhof's genius unfolds itself in their books. What fools... how I pity them. ?? And yes by the way, I DO have a Esperanto



👍 52    🗨️



おらushankaboiおら 2 years ago

Shitposts out.

👍 10    🗨️



stultus 2 years ago

This whole thread by you mr.McCarthy, can be summed up in two subreddits: r/iamverysmart and r/gatekeepers. Just because people don't learn the language YOU like, doesn't mean they're "wrong." It's what makes them happy. This is what everyone hates about conlanging community. The vast amount of snooty assholes who think that Esperanto is god and that all other conlang...

👍 30    🗨️



Alex Hayes 2 years ago

I see that we're still using the word "boy" as an insult.

👍 21    🗨️



DeluxeTux5249 2 years ago

OOOOOKAAAAY lots to unpack here

Firstly, your comparing an artlang to an auxlang. But screw it, the beliefs of a "lowly YouTuber" are worth more than that of a "scholarly source" such as yourself

if you're gonna be an jerk online, don't associate yourself with the movement. it's people like you that drive people away from learning Esperanto in the first place. I've seen first hand people discouraged to learn it due to idiots like you online.

If you were an Esperantist, you'd, know that Esperanto was made to bring people together not be your excuse to complain about another language that wasn't made with internationality in mind. And so what, if tp, a language that doesn't have more than a centuries worth of existence, was to be ADAPTED as an auxlang, (given more less vague vocab, and more printed learning resources other than the one, lone book made by S.Lang etc.) then I, an Esperantist as well, accept it would run circles around Esperanto.

Your comparing a book, not book series a book, to 138 years of resources and 2000+(those numbers may be off by a margin but the point still stands) native speakers.

Piss off, and don't think your better than anyone here. If you wanna be a goofus online, work for Trump, I think he'll take a looking to you, ya might get an even better pay working with/for the president

Show less

👍 17    🗨️



DeluxeTux5249 2 years ago

You Safar jes vi veregas



Anthony McCarthy and yes some natural languages don't have and cannot write about sensory topics so by your definition !xoo isn't a language (I think I'm no further than a 1/4 through this thread lol)

👍 12 🗨️



**DeluxeTux5249** 2 years ago (edited)

I HAVE MADE IT TO THE END OF THE THREAD!!! I'VE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE!!!!

MI AL VENIS AL LA FINO DE ĈI TIU KOMENTO!!! MI HAVAS FARINTE LA NEEBLAN!!!!

mi kama tawa pini pi poka toki lili. mi pali e ken ala!!!!

I think that accounts for all the relevant communities it's been fun guys or is this thread still ongoing

Show less

👍 23 🗨️



おらushankaboiおら 2 years ago

DeluxeTux5249 I liked every comment in the thread. It was hard, but I did it. Also, "silly Billy" is very insulting to my people and you should stop using it.

👍 23 🗨️



海達覺得你好嘅 ハイ田は、あなた 2 years ago

this thread is art

👍 15 🗨️



**John Jeffrey** 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy if we read more? You're the one trying to get us to translate an Esperanto book into toki pona!

👍 4 🗨️



**Rúnatal** 2 years ago

this thread is a masterpiece and i hate it, thanks

👍 14 🗨️



**sethraptor** 2 years ago (edited)

Hi all you readers and commenters, welcome to the one year anniversary post for "New Radio Shows"; the comment thread where us rowdy kids goof off with an old man who refuses to acknowledge other people's ideas.

I'm SRG Thai Boxing champion and comedy writer Seth Raptor, one of the creators of the thread "New Radio Shows". I play the part of "sethraptor" on NRS. Since my character's incarceration at the end of season one, I've been working extra hard with con-langue critic, Anthony, and our other collaborators to bring you all even more outrageous internet discourse content. This





when we ignorantly penned Anthony's first moderately insulting accusation back in 2017. And can I just say, the time has just *crawled* by since then. It feels like it's been so much longer than that, doesn't it? It's just crazy for me to think about how far we've come in that short time, it's been an incredibly humbling and rewarding experience to see the reaction and support of all our fans while we worked on this weird little thing in our corner of the internet.

So, first order of business, in this comment I want to send out a big thank you to all our fans, readers, and participants in the thread over this last year. We've had some great times interacting with the NRS community and reading all the nice tweets on the hashtag [#NewRadioShows](#), and we've attracted a surprising amount of attention considering we haven't spent a single dollar on advertising. We're running this thing completely on word of mouth, so we really appreciate you guys talking about the show on social media and sharing it with all your friends. If you want to support our project, the best thing you can do is share it with your friends and family, and use the hashtag [#NewRadioShows](#) to spread the word about what we're doing here. We're really just a few guys on the internet, we don't have any big company behind us, or any investors, so you guys' support is a huge deal to us, and we're so thankful for whatever you can give.

Secondly, I want to make some announcements about what you can expect to see on the upcoming third season of New Radio Shows that we're calling "The Dis-enlightenment". We've already got lots of exciting content written up, and plenty of esoteric references to marginally notable intellectuals, requests for translation of arguably challenging texts, and 20th century grade school insults ready to thoughtlessly fling at any members of the NRS community who think they might be the one who finally gets Anthony McCarthy to admit that he may have made a few too many assertions about the nature of language and also the world in general. You can also expect to see more plot development on the story of *my* favorite character sethraptor, who as you know has been in prison for six months. And we'll finally get the answer to why Anthony just keeps on responding to youtube comments even though he is not being literally forced at gunpoint to do so. We've all been wondering, I've seen the fan theories, and some of them are really good, but I think you'll find the real backstory very surprising. Also, expect to see some special guests coming on the thread! I don't want to drop any names, but let's just say some of you lucky commenters could get the chance to move the figurative goalposts with the **second** most superficial commentator on con-languages. Some would even call him ... "idiotic"...

Anyways, until then, thanks for sticking with us for these TWELVE WHOLE ENTIRE AGONIZING MONTHS, and don't forget to tweet about us with the hashtag [#NewRadioShows](#) to spread the word. As they say in esperanto, ¡Będziesz Hasta Your Bientôt!

Show less



sethraptor 2 years ago

Don't worry, we have some big plans ;)



sethraptor 2 years ago



SIGN IN

though we poke fun at him alot in the comments, the objective is always to come to an ...

👍 29 🗨️



**Dibyajyoti Lahiri** 2 years ago

To whoever it may concern, this thread, apart from giving me the worst migraine attack of my life, made me start learning toki pona :)

👍 25 🗨️



**Noah Losert** 2 years ago

Guys I think Anthony might be dead

👍 19 🗨️



**Brett Harkness** 2 years ago

Oh my god... I think you're right.

Conlang Critic I think it's only right that you pay Anthony proper tribute.

You must make a video denouncing toki pona and giving your life to Dr.L Leizher Z.

Anthony, if you can hear me from that great Green Star in the sky,

You will be truly missed

Show less

👍 24 🗨️



**Yarrow M** 2 years ago

Why are esperantists all such assholes? This is far from the first time I've seen an esperantist bully someone on youtube for not being a samideano.

👍 13 🗨️



**Brett Harkness** 2 years ago

[#notall](#)

👍 7 🗨️



**Firebrain** 2 years ago

mi pilin ike tan mi kama pi tenpo pini. mi wile toki e sina ali. linja sitelen ni li luka musi mute.

(mi wile toki e "comment thread" la mi wile pali e "linja sitelen" anu seme? )

👍 3 🗨️



**Firebrain** 2 years ago

Idk if Anthony McCarthy will see this (sona moli anu seme?), but "I'm free" translates easily into "mi ken pali e ijo pi mi wile" or "I can do the things I want." Not hard to do if you're willing to think



**b4imma** 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy I know you're trying to roast toki pona for it's impracticality, but I will say that there is a natural language (pirahã), which only has 2 words for numbers. One word for a small quantity and another for large quantities. You may think that it's absurd (because we live in a society that needs larger numbers to exist), but if a language has no reason to distinguish ...

Read more

👍 17 🗨️



**Fernando Banda** 2 years ago (edited)

I just want to say that as much as I regret the time I spent reading all of this despite the amusement factor, I'm actually now very inclined to look up Toki Pona.

And don't worry, I'm not discouraged to ever learn Esperanto at some point.

👍 19 🗨️



**Shells 57** 2 years ago

Do I care that this thread was posted a year ago? No, no I don't.

Now to address an issue that to my knowledge was not mentioned in [#Newradioshows](#)

Conlang:

Constructed=Con

Language=Lang

Thus, conlang=constructed language.

Esperanto is a constructed language. Toki Pona is a constructed language. Thus, THEY ARE BOTH FUCKING CONLANGS

As much as it saddens me to admit it, [#Newradioshows](#) shouldn't have gone on for more than a day

Show less

👍 20 🗨️



**Adonaí J. Arellano Flores** 2 years ago

Man the meme here is s u r r e a l

👍 12 🗨️



**ads as** 2 years ago

Jesus Christ. You guys are insane. Anthony must have a stick so far up his ass he can taste it. Just respect a conlang. I know I'm late to the party, but DAYUM this gave me a headache to read. Just relax, we get it you have a hard on the for Esperanto. You should have just left it at that. Now, once again I only read to about the 200th comment, and I doubt anyone will see this, but i ...

👍 19 🗨️



**habib** 2 years ago



**habib** 2 years ago

You're welcome.

👍 1 💬



**Alexander Skrjabin** 2 years ago

Anthony McCarthy conlangs don't have to be spoken to be a conlang. Also what you're saying is like saying to someone who plays tennis as a hobby "stop playing it, if you aren't going to join a tournament"

👍 15 💬



**ugh** 1 year ago

Huh, so this is finally dead.

👍 8 💬



**Neal Pierce** 1 year ago

What a ride this garbage fire of a thread was. I could season nearly 4 tons of meat with the salt in here.

👍 12 💬



**ugh** 1 year ago

[@Neal Pierce](#) this has to go somewhere on reddit

👍 8 💬



**stultus** 1 year ago

someone needs turns this into a massive google slide or powerpoint presentation just filled to the brim with nothing but these 400+ comments. this whole thread is probably the best i've ever encountered on youtube,

👍 29 💬



**Xax** 1 year ago

Stultus Films Yeah. Pretty spicy thread right here

👍 💬

**Danitonnan** 1 year ago

Almost 500 responses, people! We can make it!

👍 3 💬

**dukereg** 1 year ago

Damn it! I had a serious question for Anthony McCarthy. He was making a big deal of the limited number of numbers in Conlang Critics' favourite language so that CC could feel the hurt that Anthony McCarthy felt when Esperanto was criticised in an unrelated video, but Aren't there natural languages that lack many numbers? ...

[Read more](#)



based



**DeadLetter** 1 year ago

Rest In Piss Anthony McCarthy



**vxcvbzn** 1 year ago

Godwin's law (or Godwin's rule of Hitler analogies) is an Internet adage asserting that "As an online discussion grows longer, the probability of a comparison involving Nazis or Hitler approaches 1"; that is, if an online discussion (regardless of topic or scope) goes on long enough, sooner or later someone will compare someone or something to Adolf Hitler or his ...

[Read more](#)



**Lyrion Rae** 1 year ago

Anthony McCarthy come back. I need to see people bullying you more for research purposes.



**Lyrion Rae** 1 year ago

Plus I wanted to see you people beat the world record.



**Alien Platypus** 1 year ago

Is2DealYou Яаgиa He responded like 200 times, maybe he got CTS so bad he died or something.



**\*\*\*Leticia \*\*\*** 1 year ago

It was a beautiful trainwreck. Thank you all.



**Kyle Neckar** 1 year ago

holy crap I wish I could save this thread somehow



**Ziyad Hamoda** 1 year ago

Brain xd anthony choongoose



**Lord LunaEquie is me** 1 year ago

Oh dear lord. I was only skimming and that was quite the ride.



**silver & noise** · 1 year ago

What the fuck is a "conlang"? Is it like that stuff the girl from Sigur Ros sings in?

...

[Read more](#)

6

**blue J; green T** · 1 year ago

who's gonna get the last reply to this comment? find out next time on toxic youtube culture!

12

**Neil Gratton** · 1 year ago

These attitudes are why I stay away from Esperanto and its haughty community.

12

**Relux the Relux** · 1 year ago

Holy shit what in all cursed hells is this thread

9

**Josh** · 1 year ago

This reply thread is just insane

4

**Alexandra Townsend** · 1 year ago

Hey conlang critic!

I found your channel last week.

This is easily the best reply thread I've seen in my life. Thankyou for pinning this :)

15

**Oliver Robinson** · 1 year ago

This is the most fuckin ridiculous thread oml

9

**Mishi** · 1 year ago

This thread WILD wild, and I'm guessing Anthony fingers most prolly been rot away to the point of him not being able to reply anymore 😞

4

**jan Elota** · 1 year ago

legendary thread

4



SIGN IN

**Emerald of Étsaiñ** 1 year ago

Mike S. There is also a great worldbuilding series by Ewa U. spoken entirely in Lojban

👍 4 🗨️

**Emerald of Étsaiñ** 1 year ago

Anthony McCarthy they are languages (no matter how simple or alien) that were constructed. (Con)structed (Lang)uage.

👍 4 🗨️

**Emerald of Étsaiñ** 1 year ago

r ã h d î h ö w ę

👍 1 🗨️

**Joe Yuzwa** 1 year ago

Not even in the Norwegian black metal community is there an elitist so proud as you. I am barely read this without stopping to wonder why on earth you'd be so incredibly negative

👍 8 🗨️

**AFOs** 1 year ago

@Anthony McCarthy literally everyone else wins the long war

👍 1 🗨️

**The Zantidraf** 1 year ago

Holy shit that was an experience reading all of that. I hope whatever school district that anthony worked with found this

👍 8 🗨️

**Dab Boi** 1 year ago (edited)

This dude thinks he's the shit cuz he knows Esperanto no one cares. Plus i have no idea why you are so fixed on continuing this novel of a thread. Long live the thread boys!

👍 15 🗨️

**rachel skeletonshead** 1 year ago

commenting to leave my mark in history. the adventure zone (lup, specifically) is a work of art

👍 14 🗨️

**Gnome Slayer** 1 year ago

Sorry, don't mind me. Just signing my name in this novel.

👍 25 🗨️


**Nate Morin** 1 year ago (edited)

I legitimately spent some of my time reading through this nearly 500 long argument and I n't be happier

benefic 1 year ago

Poetry

👍 49    💬




Limp Bucket 3 months ago

Imagine thinking being able to refer to nonbinary people is some kind of political agenda

👍 284    💬    ❤️    REPLY

▼ View 13 replies




Atruv 4 months ago

Jan, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beauty that is the Anthony McCarthy's comment section. It's been over an hour and I'm still reading it, truly the most entertaining hour I've ever had. Thank you.

👍 108    💬    REPLY

▼ View 9 replies



one.of.the.poisoned 3 months ago

Who even speaks this language?

"Ido"

Show less

👍 70    💬    REPLY

▼ View 6 replies





...coming from, coming from a conlang that's entirely, mostly, and possibly an entire category intertwined with language, and that includes conlangs. To make a wholly apolitical conlang video you would simply be talking about how a language feels with absolutely no context, which is boring in ...

👍 53    🗨️    REPLY



**Celt of Canaan Esurix** 3 years ago (edited)

Might want to turn the music a tad bit down, I had difficulty hearing. Also first comment!

👍 334    🗨️    REPLY

▼ [View 2 replies](#)



**Ita Ash** 3 years ago

I guest V0tgil is on the bottom forever.

👍 168    🗨️    REPLY

▼ [View 6 replies](#)



**Saw Nick the Dead Memer** 4 months ago

Esperan2: Electric Idoloo

👍 28    🗨️    REPLY

▼ [View 6 replies](#)



**matthew fanous** 3 years ago

that pannenkoak meme came straight out of nowhere, and i freaking love it

👍 105    🗨️    REPLY

▼ [View 5 replies](#)



**GubDM** 11 months ago

I did not expect to spend hours of my day today reading the beautiful shit storm that was the [#NewRadioShows](#) comment thread. Big thank you to the presumably late Anthony McCarthy. Life comes at you fast.

Surprised no one ever mentioned (or maybe I just missed it) Tolkien's languages that spawned the ...

👍 13    🗨️    REPLY

▼ [View reply](#)



**Todd Tolson** 1 year ago

Is /ts/ a sound an English speaker can't easily produce? I don't think we have a single sound which represents it, but what about "cats"? The coda should at least approximate the sound, right?

👍 36    🗨️    REPLY



**HER** 5 years ago

The music near the end was way too loud. Also, I love this series, but I find it hard to focus on your voice when you talk that fast and have a pretty bad mic.

👍 144 🗨️ REPLY

▼ [View 2 replies](#)



**Kaiser Tyranny** 1 year ago

I want to give a shout-out to Anthony for brightening up my drunken evening.

👍 15 🗨️ REPLY



**Gnowos** 3 years ago

The music was a bit loud near the end, I could barely hear what you were saying, but otherwise a good review, keep up the good work!

👍 84 🗨️ REPLY

▼ [View 2 replies](#)



**Mr. Rich B.O.B** 2 years ago

"If you don't know what Esperanto is, please tell me how you found this video and why you're watching it..." Dude, I can honestly say, I have never legitly laughed out loud in my life, before.

👍 4 🗨️ REPLY



**Phil M** 3 years ago (edited)

The reason why X was adopted was to combine the sounds "kz" and "ks" (and the French and Polish "gz", although missing in Esperanto AFAIK) into a single letter that can be freely pronounced in either of the three ways. That way, "ekzameno" and "ksilofono" are spelt "examenon" and "xilofono" in Ido, and can keep the original pronunciation or be pronounced "eksamenon" and "kzilofono" or "egzamenon" and "gzilofono". It is a simplification, since notably French (sorry for mentioning French, I know some Esperantists are allergic to it but it's my native tongue) pronounces these Xs like GZ, and apparently English simply pronounces them like Z. It's also more appropriate in a historical sense, since the word "ekzamenon" comes from Latin "exāmen", in which the X is pronounced like KS, not KZ, in Classical Latin. This wide range of possibilities on how to pronounce the letter X shows that Esperanto's orthography (and thus imposed pronunciation) is very Russocentric — that's not even Polish in nature, since the word for "ekzamenon" in Polish is... "egzamin"! Such a non-international trait is contrary to Ido's core principle: "The best international language is that which offers the greatest easiness to the greatest number of people." Letting everyone pronounce X in the way they do in their natural language (as long as it doesn't sound completely different, e.g. like SH) is easier to learn and apply than imposing the pronunciation from a single language.

Show less

👍 16 🗨️ REPLY

**Paulo Victor de Jesus Moraes** 3 years ago



▼ [View 3 replies](#)



**ra sak** 3 years ago

Don't put the music so loud! Please, i almost can't understand your voice



66



REPLY



**Aeon Maujean** 3 years ago

That music near the end is very distracting and nearly drowns out your speech.



22



REPLY



**ads13000** 3 years ago

Just a question: What does it take for a conlang to be reviewed by you?  
Does it have to be sufficiently known? Does it just have to be reasonable? etc.



30



REPLY

▼ [View 3 replies from jan Misali and others](#)



























